

NANCY HAWKS BIRTHPLACE
- WEST VIRGINIA

DRAWER 1A-

MOTHER IN LAW HAWKS

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Hanks Family

Nancy Hanks Birthplace Claims West Virginia

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Was Nancy Hanks Born Near Here

Grand County, Miss.
4-13-1926

Is a new chapter of history about to be written? Was President Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, born near Romney? That is the statement made by a mysterious visitor to this section on March 17th. The man in question was an elderly gentleman who gave his name as Dr. William E. Barton. Investigation disclosed that Dr. Barton is an eminent minister of Oak Park, Illinois, and the father of the famous writer, Bruce Barton, who recently published a life of Christ which he entitled "The Man Nobody Knows."

The stranger called upon C. J. Powell, local garage man, in an effort to hire an automobile and a chauffeur to drive him somewhere. Mr. Powell does not hire cars but inasmuch as the man was unable to secure a car elsewhere, he generously offered to take him wherever he wanted to go in his own car and without charge. It was this hospitality which led the old gentleman to tell the story to Mr. Powell. He was going in search of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Barton had copies of deeds and a description of the place so full and complete as to enable Mr. Powell to identify the spot from his acquaintance with the surrounding country. He drove the visitor to the place described and there found the old spring house and some landmarks that completely identified the spot as to the one for which Dr. Barton was searching. The latter made many photographs and pledged Mr. Powell to secrecy as to the exact spot saying: "You and I are the only two people who know this and I want to tell it to the world in the Life of Lincoln which I am writing."

Happy in the belief that he had located, seen and photographed the birthplace of Nancy Hanks and that he would, for the first time, reveal that she was born in West Virginia and not in Kentucky, as popularly believed, the old gentleman went away enthusiastic, telling Mr. Powell that he would send him one of his books—"Day by Day with Jesus"—which he has since done. He also promised Mr. Powell a copy of his "Life of Lincoln" when completed. Doubtless this book which Dr. Barton is writing will contain the detail evidence in support of his claim that he had located the birthplace of President Lincoln's mother, identified and photographed it.—Hampshire Review.

WAS NANCY HANKS BORN NEAR HERE?

The Mother of President Lincoln Alleged to Have Been Born

Near Romney

Hampshire Record 4-7-26
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Identify Nancy Hanks's Birthplace.

Special to The New York Times.

ROMNEY, W. Va., Feb. 12.—The birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, was a house that stood in the community of Mike's Run on Patterson's Creek, west of here, and the spot has been accurately marked, it was said here today by Jack Howell, who stated that the place had been identified by Dr. William E. Barton, Lincoln's biographer. After Nancy Hanks's birth, about 1790, her family moved to Kentucky and she married Thomas Lincoln.

2-13-1927
NY Times

THE BIRTHPLACE OF NANCY HANKS

The Mineral Daily News of Keyser, W. Va., has inaugurated a movement to build a "memorial road" about eight miles long from a State pike at Burlington to the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. After building the highway, the promoters would restore the original scene of the Hanks farm and make the spot a national point of interest.

The country surrounding possesses considerable charm for the tourist and, were the proposed road built, would be easily accessible to the motorist, since the spot is not far from Cumberland, Md., on the National Old Trail Highway. The Patterson Creek Valley, in which the Hankses lived, was then and still is sparsely settled and retains much of its primitive ruggedness.

The Keyser newspaper is mistaken when it speaks of the spring "from which Nancy Hanks carried water to her mother's house." The spring may be there, but Nancy left there in her mother's arms before she had reached her first birthday.

Nancy Hanks was born on Mike's Run, a tributary of Patterson Creek, in what was then Hampshire County, Virginia, now Mineral County, West Virginia. The Lincoln Memo-

rial at Hodgenville has an inscription, prepared by Jenkins Lloyd Jones, which gives the date of her birth as January 4, 1784. Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock of Massachusetts, who was probably in no way related to the Nancy Hanks family, in her book on the Hankses gives the date as February 5, 1784, but gives no authority for her conclusion. Either date, however, would fit what are now believed to be the facts. Herndon, Lincoln's biographer, said that Lincoln told him his mother was 22 years old when she was married in 1806.

Joseph and Nannie Hanks, the great-grandparents of Abraham Lincoln, migrated with their family from Richmond County, Virginia, on the north shore of the Rappahannock, where they all were born, to the Hampshire County location in 1781, after Joseph had settled up his mother's not inconsiderable estate. Joseph and Nannie had five sons and four daughters, and the United States census of 1782 proves that a Hanks family numbering eleven lived in Hampshire County.

On March 9, 1784, either one or two months after the birth of little Nancy, Joseph Hanks mortgaged his good-sized farm for 29 pounds 9 shillings to Peter Putnam, a resident of the same county, abandoned the fairly fertile acres and went to Kentucky. Since Hanks was not crowded out, the ground was productive and the sum he received for his property was pitifully small, there can be only one conclusion as to the reason for the family's sudden departure. It must have had something to do with the birth of little Nancy.

Abraham Lincoln told his biographers that his grandmother's name was Lucy Hanks and that the name of his maternal grandfather was clouded in mystery. Joseph Hanks disowned this daughter in his will, or, at any rate, did not mention her name, but bequeathed his property to his sons and the other three daughters. The will is carefully preserved in the Court House at Bardstown. Lucy's name does not appear in public records until about the time of her marriage to one of the Sparrows of Anderson County, Kentucky, all of whom know that their ancestor, Lucy Hanks Sparrow, was the mother of Nancy Hanks, and consequently claim kinship with Lincoln.

The farm on Patterson Creek was in much the same kind of territory as that on Rolling Fork, Kentucky, to which the Hankses moved in 1784. A memorial there would be another of the series of Lincoln family monuments which extend from the Chesapeake Bay almost to the Mississippi.

Curran, 3-27-27

NANCY HANKS CABIN MEMORIAL WILL BE STARTED TUESDAY

KEYSER, W. Va., April 12.—(P)—In the rugged hills of West Virginia, where the mother of Abraham Lincoln was born, the first log will be laid April 19 in the work of restoring the cabin where Nancy Hanks first saw the light.

Nancy Hanks was born on the banks of Mike's run, a clear mountain stream whose waters are gathered from the snows of the Alleghany mountains and finally find their way to the Potomac river.

When the child who was to be the mother of a President was born the spot was in Hampshire county, Virginia, but is now in Mineral county, West Virginia.

The cabin is to be rebuilt, an ancient spring arched and grounds beautified, to be followed by the construction of a memorial road from the old Northwestern turnpike to the cabin, a distance of seven miles. *Ind. Star*

4-13-27

NANCY HANKS' HOME WILL BE REBUILT

By The Associated Press.

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Only recently did the home folk know that the historical spot in their midst was being neglected. Rev. William E. Barton, D.D., found among the records of Abraham Lincoln notes pointing to the birthplace of his mother and a visit to Romney disclosed court records enabling him to locate the ruins of a log cabin, verifying the notes of the martyred president.

Springfield, Ill. 4-13-27 Ind. Star

LAY CORNER STONE FOR NANCY HANKS MEMORIAL CABIN

KEYSER, W. Va., April 20.—(P)—The Nancy Hanks Memorial Association planned today to make application for a state charter to continue its work of reconstructing the log cabin in the mountains of Mineral county, where the mother of Abraham Lincoln was born.

The association was formally organized last night at a banquet, with the Rev. Dr. William E. Barton of Detroit, Mich., named chairman of an advisory committee.

The banquet followed a day of ceremonies during which the corner stone for the reconstructed Nancy Hanks cabin was laid by Dr. Barton, who found its ruins along Mike's run after years of search.

Other members of the advisory committee are Governor Howard M. Gore of West Virginia; John J. Cornwell, Romney, W. Va., former West Virginia Governor; Ida M. Tarbell, New York; former United States Senator Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana; William H. Thompson, Lexington, Ky.; John W. Bunn, Springfield, Ill.; T. L. Bangs, Baltimore, and Col. Walter Scott, New York.

Lincoln's Mother Born In Virginia, Is Claim

ROMNEY, W. Va., Feb. 12.—It has just transpired that the visit of Dr. William E. Barton, Oak Forest, Ill., over a week-end about a year ago to this section was to identify the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Barton asked Jack Powell of this place to drive him to a certain place on Patterson's Creek, a point he described so accurately that Powell identified it and took the stranger to it. At the time the

stranger said that it was the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, and that he would be the first to tell the world about it. The point is known as Mike's Run, on Patterson's creek.

The family later migrated to Kentucky, where Nancy grew to womanhood and married Abraham Lincoln's father. Mike's Run is now in Mineral county, W. Va. It was then in Hampshire county, Va., now West Virginia.

DR. BARTON PLACED CORNER STONE OF NANCY HANK'S CABIN

KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 1927

DELIGHTED WITH LOCATION AND BEAUTY OF VALLEY IN WHICH HE FOUND THE RUINS OF THE COTTAGE IN WHICH THE MOTH- ER OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN WAS BORN

Dr. William E. Barton, the noted Lincoln historian, and eminent divine, spent a very busy day yesterday reviewing the location of the Mikes Run Valley, and establishing for all time the correct location of the log cabin in which Nancy Hanks the Mother of Abraham Lincoln, was born. This was the second visit he had made to Mikes Run section. For seven long years the historian has been busy searching records stored in counties in Virginia, North Carolina, and tracing every claim to the birthplace of Nancy Hanks. After directing the lineage of all the Hanks from Massachusetts and New Hampshire to Virginia he found that the only family of Hanks from whom Nancy Hanks could have sprung were in Virginia in 1656. He followed Joseph Hanks from the tide waters of Virginia, up the Potomac to Pattersons Creek and then to Mikes Run, on the Peter Hartman lands where the Mother of President Lincoln was born. Dr. Barton said up until two years ago he was the only living man who knew where the Mother of Abraham Lincoln was born. He was very sure, and said in no uncertain tone that he knew that he had located the correct birthplace.

Lays Corner Stone for Log Cabin

Dr. Barton, with a group of citizens, enjoyed tramping over the violet covered fields on the banks of Mikes Run. He would pick a violet from a cluster and remark: "I can fancy Nancy Hanks, when a little girl, gathering violets from this very spot." He with Mr. D. G. Martin, surveyor, traced the lines, measured the cellar walls, and with a great deal of feeling placed a large stone at one corner of the foundation, and with a beautiful, fitting sentence put the stone in place.

Dr. Barton stood erect with uncovered head on the spot and recited to an interested group of men just how Joseph Hanks had made his way to this particular valley in the year 1782, and how he left in 1784 for Kentucky. He told of the seven years of work during which time he traced the family in order to, be reasonably sure the exact location be made a matter of record. As logs were being placed Dr. Barton described the one-room log cabin and the large family that inhabited it for three years.

Drank From Mountain Spring

From the roots of a persimmon tree cool mountain water pours out. "This is the same spring from which the Mother of President Lincoln drank when a tiny girl," said Dr. Barton as he drank heartily of the pure water. The day was very hot so the water did a real service.

The valley through which Mikes Run winds its way, is very beautiful in natural scenery. Pines, oaks, redwood, walnuts, persimmon and many other trees stand in uncountable numbers, a natural park for the enjoyment of the public. The farm is owned by Mr. Silas M. Arnold, one of the splendid men of Mineral County.

Hard Road Planned

It has been suggested, and plans are being worked to that end, to build a hard road leading from the Northwestern Turnpike at Burlington, a distance of seven miles to the Cabin, which will be restored.

Organization Takes Form

A banquet was given in honor of the Rev. William E. Barton in the evening at Hamill's Rotary Hall, at which the guest of honor in an address paid a glowing tribute to Abraham Lincoln, telling how he was honored by Nations other than America. He said: "Abraham Lincoln signed the bill that made West Virginia a State, and Abraham Lincoln would have been pleased to know that West Virginia gave him his mother."

After the address of the evening Chairman Wm. H. Reese asked the pleasure of the gathering, whereupon

a resolution was adopted and a committee appointed to apply for a charter from the state of West Virginia to incorporate the Nancy Hanks Memorial Association. The charter is being applied for today by the following committee: F. H. Babb, W. B. Woolf, R. A. Welch, D. A. Arnold, S. M. Arnold, V. W. Marshall, H. G. Fisher, W. H. Barger, John S. Arnold, 3rd, and E. L. Tyler.

The following nationally known persons were chosen as Advisory Board: Dr William E. Barton, chairman; Governor Howard M. Gore, Id. M. Tarbell, New York; Alfred J. Beverage; Washington; Hon. William H. Thompson, Lexington, Ky.; John W. Bunn, Springfield, Ill.; E. L. Bangs, Baltimore, Md.; Col. Walter Scott, Broadway, N. Y.; John J. Cornwell.

During the banquet lantern slides of pictures made by Cloyd Yost, photographer, during the day were shown. The Otterbein Quartet, composed of Prof. C. W. Roller, N. C. Taylor, Edward Taylor and Evers Dayton sang.

At 2:45 Dr. Barton addressed the students of Keyser High School assembled for Chapel. His address was highly entertaining and inspiring to the young people.

The Hamills are to be congratulated in the excellent manner in which they handled the banquet.

At 9:29 Dr. Barton left for New York, where tonight he will occupy a private box from which he will review the new picture "King of Kings," shown for the first time. Dr. Barton censured the picture as it was being made at Hollywood.

Therefore, my beloved brethren

Today's text is suggested by the Rev. Mark A. Matthew

The Log Cabin Of Shame Becomes Nation's Shrine

APR 20 1921

YESTERDAY they laid the first log in restoring the West Virginia cabin that was the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln.

In that cabin Lucy Hanks alone welcomed Nancy to life in 1784, an unmarried mother with a child the world called illegitimate.

From that cabin the Hanks family were driven by the scorn of their Virginia neighbors. With Lucy and little Nancy they traveled the wilderness road through Cumberland Gap, and on to Kentucky. There Nancy grew to womanhood and married Tom Lincoln.

The cabin of shame is to become a shrine of the nation, for in it was born the mother of one of God's children, sent to do His work in the world.

It ought to make us think.

The humble, outcast in our midst may be a new savior of mankind.

Indeed, it is from the humble and the outcast of men that our saviors have always arisen.

When the Civil War was breaking, in 1860, there was a drunken teamster in Southern Illinois. He was branded as useless by his low marks at West Point and his successive failures since.

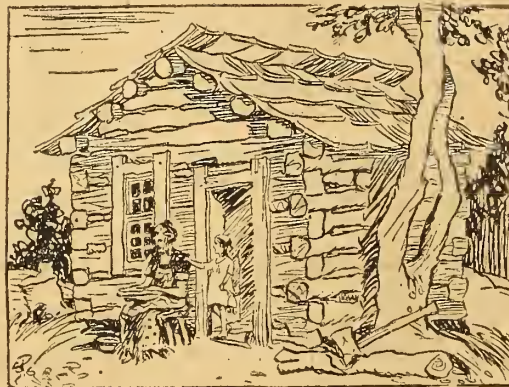
Who would have chosen such a man to lead the armies of the nation and save the Union?

That man was Ulysses S. Grant.

Fate, with a keener insight than any human mind, found the divine spark of military genius and dogged courage in him. Within five years the drunken teamster took Lee's surrender at Appomattox and three years later he held the highest office in the republic.

What do we know?

The birthplace of Nancy Hanks ought to be a shrine to humility.



LOG CABIN IS MEMORIAL TO MOTHER OF LINCOLN

It Will Mark the Birthplace of Nancy Hanks in the Mountains
Of West Virginia—The Story of the Search
That Fixed the Site

RECONSTRUCTION of the log cabin in which Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, was born was begun last week by members of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Association. The site is in the hills of Mineral County, W. Va., about seventeen miles from the town of Keyser. Ceremonies were held at the site last Tuesday and it is expected that the cabin will be entirely rebuilt within a few weeks. In the following article William E. Barton tells of his researches that finally led to the identification of the birthplace of the mother of the great American President.

By WILLIAM E. BARTON.

THE cabin where Nancy Hanks gave to the world her great son, Abraham Lincoln, is enshrined in a granite temple and belongs to the United States Government; but the cabin where she herself was born disappeared, and no one on earth remembered or suspected its location. All conjectures, and confident declarations less reliable than conjectures, went far wide of the truth, no one of whom coming within a hundred miles of the actual location.

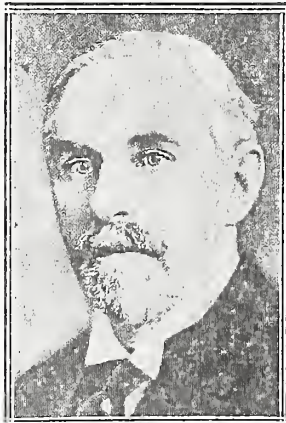
In the cold of a bitter winter, 1783, at the end of one or the beginning of the other year, this child of a mother who was under 45 when the first United States census was made, the summer of 1810, and who probably had not passed her nineteenth birthday when her baby was born, first wrote to the harsh and real realities of an unfriendly world. President Lincoln did not know where his mother was born, and he did not much inclination to inquire. He knew that his father, Thomas Lincoln, was born in Rockingham county, in the Shenandoah Valley, and, like nearly all information that had obtained through his father concerning his family history on the paternal side, this was correct. But the Hankses of his mother's generation known to him were dead because he made any investigation, and a next generation was born in Kentucky.

So one manifested any curiosity on the subject until 1865, and then the thing was learned that gave to Lincoln's mother a local habitation. The

got any kind of record he wants about some Hanks, and to change the name to Hanks is a very easy thing.

I continued to work in Richmond, with many disappointments and meager gleanings. Ordinary sources of information failed amazingly. But I began to get scattered and inconse-

WILLIAM E. BARTON



Lincoln's Biographer, Who Located the Birthplace of Nancy Hanks.

quential records of Hankses in the Counties of Richmond, Lancaster and Randolph. The last of these names applied to a county afterward obliterated by division, which name was subsequently revived and given to an entirely different county. As for Richmond County, at first I supposed it was the county of which the City of Richmond was county seat. But it is a rural county at the lower end of the Northern Neck. It still has no railway.

After a while I discovered that these entries in three counties were really all in one locality, which was shuttled from county to county. And I began to want to go there.

After some delays on account of roads and my other engagements, I did go, and I was able to secure rather surprisingly good assistance. But where and when was Nancy Hanks born?

Abraham Lincoln said his mother, who was born in Virginia, was in her twenty-third year when she married

"drain," or as the deeds called it a "dread" of Patterson's Creek.

This information, first published in The New York Times in February, 1925, and shortly afterward in my "Life of Lincoln," naturally created some local interest, which crystallized into the movement to rebuild the cabin, out of log buildings in the village, and place it on its original foundations, to clear and beautify the spring, and make a practicable road to the spot.

On Tuesday, April 19, an invited company gathered at the site of the cabin of Joseph Hanks for final investigation and certification. Old deeds and patents had given clearly the location of the farm. George Terry had the patent from Lord Fairfax, and he assigned it to Peter Hartman, who in 1751 assigned it to Joseph Hanks. Between it and Patterson's Creek, and including the mouth of Mike's Run, lay the farm of Peter Putnam. When Peter died his original farm and the Hanks addition were divided to secure the dower rights of his wife. Peter left a good estate, including two barrels of whisky, one of which was reserved for "use at the sale" and the other at the said sale brought, including barrel, \$1.76. Peter's coffin cost \$3, which was a rather high price.

The Lost Cabin Found.

The description of the divided farm, by its references to the forks of the stream, helped to show the location of the cabin. D. G. Martin, experienced local surveyor, came with many old records and local surveys. The place where there had been a human habitation, between the right and centre forks of the creek, had been found, and also the spring which supplied it with water. By digging a few inches below the surface the corners of the stone foundation of the cabin were found in place. The four corners were marked by stones from the original foundation and rails were carried and placed to indicate the line of the walls.

At a dinner in the evening, in Keyser, an organization was formed with instructions to procure papers of incorporation and secure an option on the site with expectation of building a road to the place. The site is five miles up Patterson's Creek to the bridge of Mike's Run, and one and three-fourths miles up the Run, from the village of Burlington, Mineral County, West Virginia. Burlington is on the national road, the historic Northwest turnpike, midway between Keyser and Romney.

first systematic effort to locate the place of her birth was in 1899. A little book appeared in that year, followed by the beautifully printed "Ancestry of Lincoln," by Lea & Hutchinson, and this seemed to settle the matter. The Lincoln centenary occurred ten years later, and the floods of literature that were then poured out unanimously accepted this story, so far as I am aware—save in the case of one or two scurrilous screeds that do not deserve to be mentioned even as exceptions or for purposes of rebuke.

The Accepted Story.

According to the 1899 story, the Hanks family in the United States began with Benjamin Hanks, who arrived in Plymouth, Mass., in 1699. His third son, William, disappeared from the Massachusetts records. He was born on Feb. 11, 1704, and I presume died in childhood, but I do not know. Inasmuch as no record was found in Massachusetts of his having married or of his having owned land, this 1899 story assumed that he migrated to Virginia and there became the progenitor of the Hanks family in that State—thus giving all the New England Hankses a blood relationship with President Lincoln. That was not only the documentary basis of the story; it appeared also to be its motive. And a very heavy superstructure was built upon what was probably no better foundation than the early demise of one of the numerous Hanks babies.

This 1899 story went on to affirm that the Hankses, after a period of incubation in tidewater Virginia, went to Amelia County, in Central Virginia, and were there in the '80's.

When I got at the actual writing my "Life of Lincoln" of course I had to investigate this matter—or take it as it was fed to me, the way other authors had been doing for a quarter century. And the more I learned the more I was disturbed.

I wrote to the Clerk of the Courts in Amelia County for certified copies of all Hanks records; deeds, wills, marriages and so on, and he sent me exactly six entries, all in years before the Revolution. Two Hanks families moved into Amelia County and soon moved out again. One bought one piece of land and the other bought two, and what they bought they later sold in the same tracts. There was not a will, not a marriage; there was, in fact, nothing like what had been published. And the Clerk, who had been County Judge, said it would be no use spending time and money to go there, for he knew the records and there positively were no other Hanks records there.

Later, I went to Amelia County and made a thorough search of my own. I found just those six Hanks entries and no others. But I had a long talk with the Judge, then the Clerk, who told me all about all my predecessors there. And I found out where the Hankses came from that had got into the 1899 story.

They were not Hankses at all. Their name was Hawks, and they belonged to a wholly separate family that was in Amelia before the two Hankses came, and is still there. Any one can

his father. She was born in the latter part of 1783 or the first part of 1784. That is positively all we know. The other dates were manufactured to order and are wholly unreliable.

Was the family of Joseph Hanks in Richmond County in 1783 or 1784?

They were not there then, but had not been gone long. Joseph was administrator of his mother's estate, which was settled in 1782, but he had already moved, and came back from somewhere to file his final papers. Where did he go and come back from?

I hope not every author knows how much free labor he can get out of the Government of the United States, and I suspect that the Census Bureau gets as little public credit as any branch of the Government. May the Lord bless the Census Bureau for what they have done for me!

It had not occurred to me to ask that bureau to find the family of Joseph Hanks in 1784, for I knew that family was in Richmond County, Va., in 1781, and in Kentucky before 1790, and the first United States census was made in 1790. But now came one of those miracles no one could have predicted. The Virginia enumeration included certain data collected in 1782 and 1784. Joseph Hanks, white, with a family of eleven, was in Hampshire County, Va., in the new section on Patterson's Creek, in 1782, and was gone in 1784.

In that enumeration there was no division as to age or sex. But here were Joseph and Ann Hanks and their nine children a hundred miles away from where anybody had ever imagined they had ever been.

Removed to Kentucky.

I then wrote to the Clerk of Hampshire County for records and could find only two. Joseph Hanks had a good title to his land, albeit the land was not paid for in full, and he mortgaged his farm in March, 1784, for a pitiful sum, paid by a thrifty Pennsylvania German neighbor, Peter Putman, and the whole Hanks family hastened away to Kentucky.

The Clerk wrote that there were positively no more records, but I wanted to go to Hampshire County. I had a notion that I might discover the actual birthplace of the President's mother. I was able to make a fairly good map of the farm. It adjoined the farm of Peter Putman, which lay along Patterson's Creek, at the mouth of Mike's Run.

The United States Geological Survey had furnished me with large scale maps, and I had a large number of descriptive data. One morning at 7 o'clock I started out in a car from the Ford Garage, and appropriately the car was a Lincoln. We followed the road as I described it, and my rough maps and the good ones from Washington told me all I needed to know. We found Mike's Run, a really pretty stream, though bearing a plebeian name. The Putman house, now the Arnold house, was just where I expected. We found the old road and turned up Mike's Run as far as the heavy car could go.

We found the foundation stones of the home of Joseph Hanks, and the spring from which his family obtained water. It was above the forks and between the forks of Mike's Run, a

Site of Nancy Hanks' Home Located in West Virginia



Rails marking the original dimensions of the Hanks cabin. The author stands in the front center, holding his hat.

—Coyd Tost Photos.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN was aware that his father had been born in Rockingham County, Virginia, and his knowledge and written statement to that effect are found correct. He knew, also, that his mother, Nancy Hanks, was born in Virginia, but in what part of Virginia he did not know, or if he knew he did not relate. No member of the Hanks family ever told anyone who communicated the information to a biographer of Lincoln in what part of the Old Dominion Nancy Hanks was born. No careful inquiry was made until 1865, and by that time all the Hankses of her generation were dead. The oldest relatives of Lincoln who bore the name of Hanks had been born in Kentucky, and they may not have known.

Not till 1899, and then not on the basis of any knowledge obtained from the family, was there an attempt to discover the county in which the President's mother had her birth. What came to light then was welcomed by writers on Lincoln, and by the time of the centenary, ten years later, was undisputed and accepted by all who wrote on the subject during that period.

This story was that the Hanks family in Virginia had its American origin in or near Plymouth, Massachusetts, where one Benjamin Hanks arrived at the very end of the 17th Century. It was affirmed that one

Where the MOTHER of LINCOLN Was Born

By WILLIAM E. BARTON

member of this family went to Virginia early in the 18th Century, and that a group of his sons, who were named, and whose land transfers were published, went to Amelia County, Virginia, where they became related by marriage to four families named Berry, Thompson, Mitchell and Lincoln.

It was affirmed that Abraham Lincoln, paternal grandfather of the President, and Joseph Hanks, maternal grandfather of the same, and a son each of the families of Berry, Thompson and Mitchell, went to Lunenburg County, and each of the five married daughters of a man named Shipley. The names of the five women were given. All five families later moved to Washington County, Kentucky, so it was stated, and there, Thomas Lincoln, son of Abraham and Mary Shipley Lincoln, married Nancy daughter of Joseph and Mary Shipley Hanks; and their second child and first son was Abraham Lincoln, afterward President of the United States.

For twenty-five years this story was undisputed, and it won eminent support, as the crowded library shelves testify.

I had every inclination to accept this story. When early in 1920 I published my first large work on Lincoln, *The Soul of Abraham Lincoln*, I had found no cause to dispute this narrative. But a few months later, when I published *The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln*, I was aware that this story was not so easy to believe as I had supposed. In that book, however, I accepted the Amelia County narrative, though with some hesitation. I had no reason as yet to investigate it. I knew that I must investigate it, and with an open mind, but I expected and hoped that the Amelia County story would be confirmed.

When I began investigating this matter, as I did about 1921, I wrote to the clerk of the courts in Amelia County and obtained all the records he had concerning the Hanks family in that county. To my amazement, there were exactly six, and all of them were of some years before the Revolutionary War. Two Hanks brothers lived in that county in the 1760's. One owned one farm and the other two, and when they sold, they sold in the same lots which they bought. The two families were out of Amelia County before the Revolution, and there were simply no records of the Hankses covering the

period of the 1780's, when Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were born.

I visited Richmond, and there as I pursued my inquiries, I met a man of repute in matters of historical investigation, who had twice visited Amelia County in the employ of earlier biographers of Lincoln. He had data, also, on cognate matters in other counties. He still had the notes of his investigations and professed to have, and I am confident did have, the right to their further use. As these earlier writers had published their books, I felt at liberty to deal with him, and I bought copies of all his notes made in these two searches, and some besides. I secured some data of value, but so far as these earlier writers were concerned, my purchase was of value to me simply in certifying that I already knew all that they had learned about Amelia and adjacent counties. So far as the Hanks family was concerned, all that these other writers had been able to secure was the same little group of real estate entries of which I had certified copies.

I went to Amelia County, and I saw the records with my own eyes. There were exactly those six. There was not a record of a Hanks will, a Hanks marriage, a Hanks serving on a jury or a Hanks paying taxes in any year after the Revolution began.

But I found out where the other entries came from that had been published. They were family names and records of an entirely different family, that of Hawks. The Hawks family was in Amelia County before the two Hanks families passed through and made their brief sojourn, and it is there still. One can find any kind of record he wants about some Hawks. Certain Hawks records had been copied, and the name had been changed to Hanks. And all the Lincoln authors had accepted the documents without question!

I made other journeys to Richmond, and began an exploration of the archives of the state, the state library and the state historical library, to find, if I could, all the Hankses that had ever been there. I went also to the land office. It was no small task, nor was

it accomplished in a single visit.

I began to encounter fragmentary references to persons named Hanks in Richmond County. I supposed at first that Richmond was the county where I was then sitting, the county of which the city of Richmond was county seat. But this was far from the truth. Richmond County is a remote, rural county, in the lower end of Northern Neck, with no railroad. I found also stray Hanks records in Lancaster and in old Rappahannock County, the latter a county that ultimately was obliterated by territorial division, and the name revived later for a new county in another part of the state. When I superimposed these records, I found that while they referred to three or more counties, a number of them were of the same locality, under different county names.

Later, when the roads were passable, I went to Richmond County, and for three years now I have been working there personally and with local assistants. The result, thus far, is this: That the Hanks family has been continuously resident in that section of Virginia since before 1653. I have not

yet the fixed *terminus a quo*; but this I know: The Virginia Hankses did not come out of Massachusetts, but were in Virginia more than fifty years before Benjamin Hanks ever saw New England.

Such explorations are wearisome and full of disappointments. A score of questions are still haunting me, and I am still at work. But I was now in position to discover whether Nancy Hanks, who certainly was not born in Amelia County, might possibly have been born in Richmond County.

I hardly hoped to find her baptismal record, for she was born after the Revolution. Before that everybody in Virginia was required by law to be baptized in the parish Episcopal Church. There was great laxity in the matter, but I found the date of baptism of Joseph Hanks, which information I greatly wanted, in North Farnham parish in 1725. This, as I made certain, was Nancy Hanks' grandfather, and he died in Nelson County, Kentucky, in 1793; a record of his will was dated January 9, and was probated May 14 of that year. Of his nine children I have discovered the baptism of only

one, thus far, and that is Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Ann Hanks, baptized May 4, 1771.

Catherine Hanks, mother of Joseph, died in 1779, after a widowhood of thirty-nine years, and Joseph, her second son, was administrator of her estate. A little before its final settlement he took what was then available of his share, and he and his wife Ann and their nine children disappeared from the Northern Neck.

But they did not immediately go to Kentucky. Where did they go? Where was Nancy Hanks born?

I asked for help from the United States Census Bureau, and learned that a number of Virginia counties had a census in 1782 and 1784 which was later incorporated in the records of the United States Census for 1790, the first such census. They found for me Joseph Hanks, with a family, including himself, of eleven persons, all white, in Hampshire County, Virginia, in 1782. In that census there was no division by sex and age. But the

(Continued on page 21)



All that remains of the cellar and the foundation stones of the Hanks cabin.

Where the Mother of Lincoln Was Born

(Continued from page 13)

family was exactly the size I needed.

I blush now to think of the work I caused them, but the Census Bureau made an amazing search for me, with the result that so far as they can discover there was no other Joseph Hanks in any of the thirteen colonies whose family was anywhere nearly that size. No birth of a baby or two, no total of probable infant mortality, would have made any other Joseph Hanks and family a possible competitor.

I had many other things to learn, and have not yet learned them all, but this was certain: Joseph Hanks and family of Richmond County disappeared from there in 1781, immediately after the settlement of his mother's estate, and reappeared in Hampshire County in 1782, just in time to get into the census there.

But why Hampshire County, in the northern edge of what is now West Virginia? Because, the lands of Lord Fairfax, which George Washington had surveyed, were just then coming into market at very cheap prices, and for the first time with good titles. There was a perfect exodus up the Potomac, and down from Pennsylvania, into those new lands.

SO I had found the locality, and I gained what knowledge I could from correspondence; it all took time. At length I set out to find the spot.

I went to the courthouse in Romney immediately on my arrival. The clerk was ill and had been so for a long time. My correspondence had been with his assistant, his capable daughter. I found her and the county assessor checking up on the whole county list of taxpayers. I addressed the assessor, asking him if another day would answer his purpose, and he courteously said it would.

Then I addressed the young lady, who knew me through my letters. Said I, 'Is that candy box full or empty?' She said it was empty.

'Where do they sell the best candy?' I asked.

She named the store.

I said, 'As soon as this office closes, I

am going there, and then back, and I intend to bring you the biggest and best box of candy in Romney.'

I got all the help I needed.

I had learned from her already that in March, 1784, Joseph Hanks mortgaged his farm for a pittance to a Pennsylvania German neighbor named Peter Putnam, and moved from the county and state. I had my suspicions as to why the family made this hurried exit just when their farm was coming to have a value.

THE office was rather late in closing but I got the information I wanted, in terms of the streams and 'the rode' and 'a strate line from where the rode crosses the creek to the Washington line.' George Washington surveyed one side of the Hanks farm! And Abraham Lincoln, whose mother was born there, was also a surveyor.

I am a man of my word, and the deputy clerk went home with the best candy I could buy in Romney. It certainly was in a nice, big box, and I hope the candy was good. She deserved it.

In West Virginia a man who carries passengers for hire must have a license and file a bond. There is a garage in Romney, and there I went. I said to the proprietor: 'I know you cannot accept money from me, but I need your help. I want to get back into the hills tomorrow morning, and the two men who have licenses cannot take me. Here on your desk I see a copy of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT. The editors are my friends.'

He inquired, 'What time will you be ready to start?'

I said, 'At seven o'clock.'

He said, 'I will be there.'

He came for me in a Lincoln.

He asked me no questions, and I told him nothing except where to go. To Burlington, on the road toward Keyser, then up Patterson's Creek, till we came to a little stream which I could identify. When we left Burlington, I watched the record of our mileage, and checked up on the map.

After traveling some miles we met some men working on the road, and I asked:

'Is there a little stream about three-quarters of a mile from here—a stream flowing in from the right?'

They said there was such a stream, at just the distance I had named.

'What is the stream called?'

'Mike's Run.'

We had found it! Joseph Hanks' farm was in the forks of Mike's Run of Patterson's Creek. The papers called it a drain, or as they spelled it, a 'drear.' It is more than that. It is a really pretty little stream. We crossed it, and found the Peter Putnam house just where I expected, and now occupied by a family named Arnold. Also we found an old road leading to the right, up Mike's Run.

We went up this old road as far as the heavy car could go, and then got out and walked.

'I want to find the site of a human habitation between the forks of this stream,' I said, 'and the spring from which that house obtained water.'

When we had found it, I said: 'You have asked me no questions, and I have told you nothing about the reason for my errand. This is the site of the home where the mother of President Lincoln was born, and you and I are the first two men to visit it, knowing that it is so.'

THE man who starts on a quest like this must expect to do a great deal of hard work himself, and he cannot afford to be too modest in asking for the assistance of others. Such assistance I have had, and from very many persons besides the few I have named. And now, for the first time, the world knows where Nancy Hanks was born.

On April 19, 1927, with simple, but impressive ceremonies a movement was sponsored by a local committee for the rebuilding of the Hanks cabin, which movement, it is hoped, will become national. The final tests were made assuring the committee of the accuracy of measurement and computation. The local surveyor, J. S. Martin, gave his final judgment of the lines of the old farm, and the spring and tumbled stones gave the location of the home. The spring was badly clogged, but with a little digging ran freely, and its water was found to be good. It is said that the spring never fails. Digging at the outside of the apparent line of the building disclosed the original corners, and these were officially marked. Logs for the actual rebuilding will be provided from nearby cabins; it is possible that one such cabin only a half-mile away will be taken down and reërected almost is it stands; its dimensions are proper for the purpose.

W. H. Barger, editor of the Keyser News and Tribune presided, and an informal speech was made by the writer of this article. A more formal address was made in the evening at a banquet served in Keyser. An organization was effected, to secure incorporation and purchase the farm and build a road to the home where Nancy Hanks was born.

Perhaps the birthplace of President Lincoln's mother will become as widely famous as her grave.



The spring from which little Nancy Hanks drank. The spring flowed freely after it was cleaned.

Mike's Gap, Near Antioch, Established As Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln's Mother

Search of Records of Five Counties Reveals Exact Site of Hanks' Homestead

Mike's Gap, a beautiful spot between Knobley Mountain and New Creek Mountain in New Creek district, this county, has been determined by Andrew Price, of Marlinton, as the site of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Price, the president of the West Virginia Historical Society, who was recently appointed by Governor Conley, a member of the commission created by the Legislature to investigate the claim that Nancy Hanks was born on Mike's Run in Mineral county, finally located the deeds at Richmond and Moorefield, after searching over five counties. The confusion over establishing the site of the Hanks' homestead resulted from the fact that there were several Mike's runs. Mr. Price tells the story of his search and describes Mike's Gap in a special article to the Herald.

Mr. Price's story follows:

THE RIDDLE OF THE RUN

By ANDREW PRICE

Member of Nancy Hanks Commission

This is the solution of the Riddle of the Run. Two weeks ago an account was written of the search for the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, as I hurried from county to county. It was a story of groping in the dark. Then the light came and the problem was solved and I was on the hunt for another job.

Some years ago Dr. William E. Barton established the fact that Lincoln's mother had been born in Hampshire, West Virginia. That county had been divided and subdivided and the homestead was known to be in what is now Mineral county. A mortgage, the ancestor of the deed of trust, had been given by Joseph Hanks to secure twenty pounds loaned to him by Peter Putman. The paper had been prepared by a careful lawyer and it was witnessed and recorded in a fine style, but it was apparent that it was written when no title papers were present to give metes and bounds. The names of adjoining land owners could not be given for it was the oldest title in that locality. All the lawyer could say was that it was on Mike's Run and that it was a part of a tract of land surveyed for Peter Hartman. This paper was dat-

ed 1784. As a title paper it had no antecedent of record so far as the searchers could find and it had no subsequent history on the records of Hampshire. It must have been an aggravating thing. So much and yet so little.

A tract of land was found on Mike's Run, near its mouth, that the public accepted as the place, but the great authority on lands was Surveyor David G. Martin, of Antioch, Mineral county, and he could not connect that tract up with Peter Hartman, Peter Putman, George Terry or Joseph Hanks, the four well-known parties mentioned in the mortgage, by the scrivner who drew the deed, who embodied in it every clue that could be obtained at the time it was executed. David G. Martin is a man of sixty six years of age, and has a fine reputation for his skill and integrity in working out the tangles of the Virginia system of disposing of public lands. That system can only be compared to several complicated jig-saw puzzles that have become mixed in one box. It seemed to me coming in at this late date that much pressure had been exerted to get the surveyor to reconcile some lines or other with some site or other so that the mountain could come to Mohammed.

If historical certainty was required to be the same as legal certainty, there would be a great deal less history. On my first trip to the Potomac waters, I muddled the waters still

further by discovering a second Mike's Run, but could not find any paper title that corresponded to the tract that the careful Peter Putman would lend the considerable sum of twenty pounds would regard as security.

After I got home I wrote a piece about the second Mike's Run. On looking through the list of deeds or as they are generally called, patents granting public lands, I found that Peter Hartman had received a grant of 216 acres of land on the middle fork of Mike's Run in Hampshire. This was the second place that I had found the name of Peter Hartman, the other being used for descriptive purposes in the mortgage. I sent for a copy of the grant to the office of the Auditor of West Virginia, which has copies of Virginia land grants, which are located in the bounds of West Virginia. When the deed came, I found that Fairfax had sold to Peter Hartman 216 acres of waste land

on the middle fork of Mike's Run, so as to include the head drain thereof.

The survey had been made by Elias Posten: Beginning at three white oaks by a small ridge and running thence across a drain of the said run S. 61, E. 94 poles to a hickory and black oak on the north side of Knobley Mountain, thence along it S. 33, W. 384 poles to a white oak, sugar tree, and locust on the north side of the said mountain, thence N. 61, W. 94 poles to three white oaks on the south side of New Creek Mountain, thence N. 33, E. 364 poles to the beginning, containing 216 acres.

This was very little comfort to me for all the Mike's Runs that I knew anything about were on the south side of Knobley Mountain, and that mountain was a long and substantial structure. Then too, New Creek Mountain is one of the most impressive ram-parts in the Appalachians, and the North Fork of the Potomac River has to flow many weary miles on a remarkably rough detour on its way to the sea, to go round that huge mountain. Then I could not see how those great valley bounders could approach within 94 rods of each other, less than a third a mile apart. It looked like I had found another Mike's Run.

I went back to the index of the land grants and found that no less than three grants had been made in Hardy county on Mike's Run. Hardy county was formed in 1785 from Hampshire. Then it began to look like four Mike's Runs.

A person who searches land titles is called an abstracter. He is to prepare a brief and orderly statement of title of the original grant and subse-

quent conveyance and encumbrances relating to the title and ownership of real estate. This was the kind of work that this historical search proved to be. It looked like another trip to the Fairfax country. While I was considering the advisability of going back there in an effort to teach the local experts how to suck eggs, it came to me in the watches of the night, that the solution would be found in the records of Hardy county, in the court house at Moorefield. That idea gained possession to such an extent that I pulled out for the South Branch the next morning and it took one glance at deed book number one to solve the puzzle and account for all of the parties and to locate the land.

This is not a legal report so maybe I can throw it into the shape of a tale that is told. It began about the time that Charles I lost his head. Before he lay his royal neck upon the block for a hind to hew in two, he called some of his cronies together and made them a present of what they called the Northern Neck of Virginia. He presented them with land enough to form twenty-two counties and it lay between the Potomac and the Rappahannock rivers. Then he was succeeded by a labor party and the grant did not seem to be worth the paper that it was written upon. But after a time they went back to kings, and Charles II recognized the gift, and it was treated as a sort of an asset. Culpepper bought out his partners in this wild land and when he died he willed it to his daughter, Catherine Fairfax, and she willed it to her son, Thomas Fairfax. Some say that a young woman gave him the gate and that he came to the woods to recover. He set up a land office.

Peter Hartman wandering in the woods found a desirable piece of land and had a survey made of it and on the 22nd day of March, 1721, sat down in his office in Frederick county and signed a deed. The signature is "Fairfax." The deed was for all except a full one-third part of all lead, copper, tin, coal, and iron, for the

royal mines and there is where we get the word royalty so much in use in coal, oil, and gas leases in West Virginia. The consideration named in the grant is that Peter Hartman was to pay forever on the feast day of Saint Michael and the Archangel, the sum of one shilling sterling for every fifty acres, and if he defaulted for as much as two years then the deed was the same as if it had never been made. St. Michael's is the last Sunday in September or the 29th Sunday after Trinity. Take a pencil and figure it out for yourself.

It will be remembered that even as the king of the Northern Neck was signing his name to the Hartman deed at Greenway Court, that the Indians had broken out fiercer and more outrageous than ever and that a few days after that event that they killed or drove away every inhabitant of Tygarts Valley. They ranged and

ravaged for several years after that event. Williamson executed savage and exact justice at Cadenbutton. Crawford was burned alive at the stake. Peter Hartman decided that Mike's Run was no contented place for him, and he refugeeed to Hagers-town, where he was safe from Indian raids. Before leaving, however, he placed Hanks in possession of the northern half of his strip of land and George Terry in possession of the southern end. It was stated in the article two weeks ago that settlers could not live in the eighties on the Patterson Creek waters unless they were near a fort. I find now there is an exception to the rule, and the reason will hereinafter appear.

Hartman stayed away for six years and the country quieted down. The Indians had started west. Hartman came back to make a couple of deals, in regard to the grant that he was carrying in his pocket. It is apparent that both of his men had made improvements. Terry carried the title bond. Hanks had cleared some land and had a cabin, but he was gone to another county, the faraway county of Kentucky. Peter Putman, the financier, held a mortgage on his land.

Hartman made two deals. He sold the Hanks homestead for twenty two pounds to Jacob Dull, of the county of Hardy, and the Terry end to Jacob Purgate of Hampshire county, for fifty pounds. Both deeds for cash.

Here we see the signs of another good lawyer, or rather I should say the same good lawyer who three years before had fixed up the loan between Putman and Hanks. Terry and Hanks had possession. For Putman to release the mortgage would recognize the Hanks title and Hanks was not to be found for the purpose of a conveyance. He was in Kentucky, as far away as the North Pole is today. So when the deal was made they have Putman to witness the deed in three places. And you can readily believe that Peter was there to receive his twenty pounds and interest before he did witness it. But having witnessed the deed he was then forever estopped from setting up his title under the mortgage.

The family name of Doll is pronounced by some Doll. Rol is the ancient Anglo Saxon for Dull. With the exception of this one deed the name is spelled Doll. Jacob Doll got 108 acres by that deed under following calls, showing that it is from the north end: From the three white oaks by a small ridge S. 61, E. 94 poles to the hickory and black oak, S. 33, W 192 poles to a white oak, N. 61, W. 94 poles to a chestnut oak in the old line and with it to the beginning.

This deed referred to the grant from Fairfax to Hartman by date of March 22, 1781. The acreage was just one half of the 216 acres. Then Hartman and Sharlotte, his wife, sell to Jacob Purgate, the south end by metes and bounds, for the fifty pounds, and call in George Terry to witness that deed. This 108 acres was afterwards bought by the Dolls

and it is still referred to as the Purgit land. The name is Purgitsville, in the town of Hampshire. If you have trouble remembering it think of Helvetia. Like Putman, he witnessed the deed in three places: The deed itself, the receipt for the money, and the seizen. The seizen was an important part of the old land transactions. The seller conducted the buyer to the land and when both were standing on the land, the grantor broke a twig from a tree, or uprooted a piece of sod, and handed it to the grantee and so delivered possession. If it was a house property the key of the house was delivered.

Terry and Putman, both considerable land owners, finished out their lives in Hampshire. Hartman went on to Harrison county and in 1794 took up 164 acres on the Bushy Fork of Elk Creek.

At the September term, 1787, Peter Putman appeared in the court at Moorefield, Hardy county, and proved the deed, for the Hanks tract. At Petersburg, Hon. Arch Welton furnished me a large map of Mineral county, which shows that Mike's Run does break through Knobley Mountain. It also shows it to be close to the old division line of Hampshire and Hardy, running from the Gap in Short Arse Mountain by way of High Nob, and so forth.

It was unmercifully hot in the lowlands and I had a mind to turn at Moorefield and go back to the higher level to which I was accustomed, but

I remembered that Surveyer Martin had to be shown, for in that country the public would not believe anyone else, even if he stood on his head.

I had no desire to see the place, for I considered that it would be just like any other spot, with no special appeal. It was hallowed ground. A great man's name is linked with that of his mother. One philosopher puts it, that it is generally admitted, and very frequently proved, that virtue and genius, and all the natural good qualities which men possess are derived from their mothers.

Martin lives at Antioch, a post-office of the fourth class, in Mineral county. You leave the Northwestern Turnpike at Ridgeville, and drive three miles over a good country road to Antioch. Here is an old and long established woolen mill, which gets its power from Mill Run. Even from far away Pocahontas county, fleeces are sent to be worked. Five miles farther is the Hanks place. The surveyer accepted my documents as being the ones that he had been waiting for, and he went with me by a good road to the place.

Geological Wonder

We followed Mike's Run through a pass and came out of the shadow into the farm. In all my experience in the mountains I have never seen such a hollow in the hills. The little stream branches and there is just room for the farm in this sheltered spot. It is a geological wonder. It is the kind of a glen that the fairies frequented.

It is such a place as the Druids would have chosen for their ceremonies. It is the kind of place that the Indians set aside as the earthly abode of Manitou, where no mortal dared to tread. And it is the kind of place where peace comes dropping slow from the wings of the morning to evening's dewy close.

Land Formed By Doll Family For Six Generations

The Doll family, both the quick and the dead, are still in possession, representing six generations, on the same farm. Three generations live there now, Joseph Doll, his children, and grandchildren. They farm together, and it was a treat to burst into that sylvan and agricultural scene. There are two farm houses. Joseph Doll will be eighty years old his next birthday, but he is hale and hearty, and very much alive to duties of the day.

Jacob Doll, the original purchaser, the neighbor of Joseph Hanks, died in 1798, and he left all his estate to his wife and children equally, except that his son Jacob should have over and above the Joseph George tract. This tract joins the Hartman land on the south.

A name from each generation will indicate the passing of time, with the Doll family in this haven of rest: Jacob Doll had a son, Jacob Doll, who had a son George Doll, whose son Joseph W. Doll, the present head of the house of Doll, who has a son George Doll, who has a daughter, Margaret Doll.

It was a hot day in July, and we walked about a mile south to where the men folks were putting up hay. They were just topping out a stack. The lord of the manor was on horseback, hauling hay, one of his sons was pitching the stack, and another was stacking, and two wide awake young men were helping.

They knew all about their lands, with the exception that they had never heard of the Hartman and Hanks deal, which was lost in antiquity and whose deeds were recorded in other around the Hanks' tract, where their lines and corners. They own there about 700 acres, but it all centers around the Hanks' track, where their homesteads are. They knew about the absorbing interest in the Nancy Hanks tradition, but did not know that they owned the favored site.

Just half-way in the tract stands a noble sugar tree orchard in the pasture land and it is through these trees that the dividing line between the Hanks and the Terry holdings runs. Of the original corner trees, two are standing, the white oak on Knobley Mountain at one end of the dividing line and the white oak at the south-east corner of the 216 acres. They know where the other corners are but the timber called for is gone.

The springs from which Mike's Run starts are cold and clear, and the kind the memory turns to when you are athirst. I asked about the deer-lick, that necessary appurtenance to every

choice spot in the Appalachians. It was pointed out to me through a rugged pass in the ridge at the Hanks end of the land. It was about a half mile from where Hanks had a fight with a Canadian lynx that was raiding his pig pen. It has been about thirty five years, since the last deer was killed in that hollow in the hills, J. W. Doll told me, but he had got that deer, a four snagged buck. There is an ancient blind at the deer lick made of flat stones, from which the hunters watched for deer in the old times.

On one side of this retreat is Knobley Mountain, a vast fold that runs for many miles parallel to the Alleghany Front. On the other side is the truly impressive New Creek Mountain, which towers against the sky. There are two cross ridges or spurs, that wall in this hole in the wall, and next to the New Creek Mountain side, and parallel with it, is a remarkable ridge or esker, which may have been made by glacier action, high enough to conceal a trough-like space behind it. This esker and the slopes give the floor of the tiny valley the general shape of a bit of architectural molding. There are two kinds of limestone running through the farm, the Bossardville and Rondout Waterlime, which insures the fertility of the land.

A big flock of Angora goats dotted the esker and the mountainside. L. W. Doll pointed them out with praise: "This place would have haired over if it had not been for them." He referred to their quality for eating and fighting brush.

High against the sky on New Creek Mountain, there is a notch through which a foot path runs. This is called Doll's Gap, but is more than a thousand feet higher than Mike's Gap, the hole in the wall through which the weary way worn traveller enters to drink of the delightful springs.

I hope to have the opportunity of visiting this magic spot again. I am used to folks who stay with land from generation unto generation, until it gets in their blood and they cannot move. It is the best certificate of character that can be secured, though I am not the one to say that, being caught with the same compliment.

One can see the Hanks family living in this hidden place, secure from discovery by roving bands of Indians.

And Doll's Gap is just such another amphitheatre as Rip Van Winkle discovered and where he slept undisturbed by sun, wind, and storms, for twenty years. That was the Catskill Mountains, which are a continuation of the ranges which hemmed in the Hanks family, and kept the infant Nancy free from harm.

Nature has beautified and set apart this little valley with the side doorway. Let us hope it is for the glorification of the mother of Lincoln. Belief in the madonna is deeply implanted in the hearts of our people.

THE PIEDMONT HERALD, PIEDMONT, W. VA.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1929

Nancy Hanks Commission To Meet At Moorefield Sept. 21

**Public Celebration To Be Held At Doll's Gap,
Birthplace of Nancy Hanks, Sunday, Sept. 22**

DR. WM. E. BARTON TO SPEAK

The Nancy Hanks Commission, created by the recent W. Va. legislature to investigate the authenticity of the location of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, on Mike's Run in Mineral county, will meet at 10 o'clock Saturday, Sept. 21, at Mt. View Inn, McNeill's, four miles north of Moorefield. The members of the commission, appointed by Gov. W. G. Conley, are: Andrew Price, of Marlinton; Mrs. A. A. Pickering, of Rowlesburg; John M. Crawford, of Parkersburg; Phil Conley, editor of the West Virginia Review, Charleston, and W. H. Barger, Keyser.

Dr. Wm. E. Barton, famous biographer of Lincoln, who discovered that Nancy Hanks was born in this county, will meet with the commission. Governor Wm. G. Conley is expected. Ex-Governor John J. Cornwell and other prominent men have been invited.

After a business meeting and lunch at the Inn, the commission and other members of the party, will go to the court house at Moorefield to examine the records which show the Hanks possessed a tract of land on the present Doll farm in Doll's Gap near Antioch.

Public Celebration

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 22, at 2 o'clock an open air meeting will be held in Doll's Gap. Dr. Barton and others will make addresses. The public is invited to attend this celebration.

Saturday evening a dinner will be held at Keyser in honor of Dr. Barton, Governor Conley, the members of the commission, and other notables.

THE PIEDMONT HERALD, PIEDMONT, W. VA.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1929

A COMING LINCOLN REPORT

It will be recalled that Dr. William E. Barton announced some time ago his discovery of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, near Keyser, West Virginia. Last spring the legislature of the state asked the governor to name a commission which should undertake an official investigation to determine the question of the accuracy of the Barton announcement. The commission was duly appointed and it now has made its investigation. Interest in its forthcoming report is running high. The governor has invited the governors of Maryland and Virginia to be present with himself when the report shall be presented at a date now not far ahead.

The contents of the report in its essential findings at least have been supplied to local newspapers of the state by some members of the commission and from these publications a fairly accurate notion of what may be expected may be gleaned. Dr. Barton's findings were that in 1782 the grandfather of Nancy Hanks, named Joseph Hanks, removed from Richmond County, Virginia, where, neighboring the Lees, the family home had been for a century, and established a new home in "the West" on Mike's Run of Patterson's Creek, in what now is Mineral County. The family consisted of Joseph and Ann Hanks, with their five sons and four daughters, and they appear as a family of eleven in the 1782 enumeration of the first United States census. The birth of Nancy, the mother of the President, occurred between the coming of the family to this new home in 1782 and their departure therefrom in 1784. Many of these details are to be found in the comprehensive work on the lineage of Lincoln, published with that title within a year by Dr. Barton.

The members of the commission who have gone on record in type confirm these findings by the indefatigable Lincoln investigator. He found exact identification of the location of the Hanks farm difficult, on account of a confusion in county lines which produced the recording of some important documents in the wrong county. This trouble the commission is understood to have overcome and the members are reported to have a clear abstract of title with boundaries precisely delimited. The farm is said to have been in a beautiful valley which is also of special geological interest. Nothing about Lincoln fails to obtain wide public attention these days. When before has so much labor and scholarly research been expended upon the life and ancestry, and all collateral matters having to do with a great man, than have been devoted the last quarter-century to Abraham Lincoln?

Did you know that besides yourself there are 1,935,999,999 humans on this globe?

*Boston Herald
Sept. 9-1929*

Hon. Andrew Price Describes Visit to Nancy Hanks' Birthplace

Relates Interesting Stories And Incidents Brought To Light In Visit To This County

Hon. Andrew Price, of Marlinton, president of the West Virginia Historical Society, and member of the Nancy Hanks' Commission, wrote the following interesting account of his visit to this county for the dedication of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, on the Doll farm near Antioch. The account was published in the *Pocahontas Times*, of which Mr. Price's brother, Calvin Price, is now editor. The paper has been edited in turn by the four Price brothers since 1892. Mr. Andrew Price contributes to it each week a story of historical interest that is widely read.

Mr. Price's article follows:

Last week when I went back to Dolls Gap, it was with some trepidation, for I had raved about that calm and safe retreat from first impressions, and a hasty visit there on a hot summer day, and I feared that it might look on a second trip just like any other glen. But it measured up to my former description. It is no wonder that a family which settled there 142 years ago have not moved from this magic valley.

That part of West Virginia has had the greatest drought in the memory of man but the springs in Dolls Gap are as bold and clear and cold as if the season had been normal, and it has had the most conclusive test that it can be subjected to in that regard.

The old timers speak of a tradition of a dry summer something like a hundred years ago in the Antioch neighborhood. I am speaking of Antioch, Mineral County, the postoffice name for Dolls Gap and other coves and valleys in that part of Knobley Mountain. They tell of a whimsical character who farmed a field for the Widow Mott on the shares, and at the end of the season he declared that his corn was so poor that he would have to buy corn to pay the Widow Mott her thirds.

Some of us feel like we discovered this gap. We started in to call it Mikes Gap but the public has a way of furnishing its own names and the name of Dolls Gap has been fastened on it and that is what it will be to the end of time. From Maine to California and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and in fact wherever the English speech has spread, and wherever the flag flies free, the name of Dolls Gap has become familiar. As the modern version is America has become conscious of Dolls Gap.

The lord of the manor is Joseph W. Doll, a tall straight old man, who will be eighty years old on the first day of next January, and who is hale and hearty. He wears a white chin beard, and is a perfect picture of a pioneer, a venerable man who has come down from a former generation. There are a number of ways that a man's name can be spread all over the country. Unfortunately in some cases a bad eminence is attained. But in this case it is a pleasing thing to think that this able farmer has been introduced to the nation in an acceptable manner. A man who has been steadfast and true. A man who has raised his family and raised them well. A man whose credit is good. A splendid citizen and a good man.

The reason for all this hurrah is that it was in the shelter of these hills that the mother of Abraham Lincoln was born. It seems that in America, at least, the busy man's mind has room for a very few lasting heroes. We took our proclamations seriously that all men are born equal, with equal rights. A great many men have had followers and friends and admirers, but so far there have been but two universal heroes in America, and those are George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. They have become fixed in the affections of the people. The overdriven laboring man knows about them and the greatest scholars and analysts come to the conclusion that each of those in his time upheld the nation on his shoulders, and that each stood single and alone in the furtherance of his policy to perpetuate the Union.

It is a matter of comfort to us who struggle to rescue names, acts, and deeds from oblivion, and to reverse the proud silence of former generations, that in this instance, whether the nation or the state does anything or not to beautify and improve Dolls Gap, that the everlasting hills have ringed it about so that it will always be a shrine to those who feel the need of honoring the memory of Abraham Lincoln and his mother in an affirmative manner. There they can go and such a pilgrimage stimulates the memory of all who know about the journey. This summer many such pilgrims have appeared from day to day, and on Sunday, September 22, 1929, the Hole in the Wall, by which the place is reached by a smooth well gravelled passway was taxed beyond

its powers to let the cars go through. It is a one way road with a lovely stream tinkling down by it and walled in by bold cliffs.

When I was there in the summer and talked to J. W. Doll and his two sons and examined the boundaries and the monuments marking the corners of the tract of land, they were not able to give Mr. David G. Martin, the surveyor, and myself, any definite information about the relative ages of the different fields and the several houses that had succumbed to the gnawing tooth of time during the past 145 years. A man of J. W. Doll's age, (80) thinks slowly but wisely and well. After the matter had been discussed gravely with other ancient men of the vicinity, he was able by a line of reasoning and recollection to place the exact spot that the original Hanks home was built.

His grandfather, Jacob Doll the second, told him that the logs in a certain building were from the old original house and that it stood on the farm where is the house painted red, where George Doll now lives and that was the site of the Hanks home. He has a recollection that his grandfather told him that the house was torn down to obtain the timber to build an out-house or addition to the Doll house and that the timbers had been 34 feet long and that he had reduced these timbers to 27 feet. The building was a few feet down the hill from the original building and it is remembered by J. W. Doll and other aged men of the vicinity. What makes it conclusive to me is that it was located by the spring, the finest spring in all that country, and there was no other place to build the house so fitting. At the big bold run fed by larger streams and which once turned the wheel of a grist mill, the ground is rough, and it is much nearer the deer lick. It stands to reason that a man in 1782, with nine small children would not spoil his deer lick by putting a house too close to it. Then too the place now fixed beyond reasonable doubt as the home of Jacob Hanks was near the center of the 108 acres and on the best farming land on the tract. The cabin was thirty-four feet long and large enough to shelter a family of eleven in the manner of a pioneer.

Another thing that adds to the weight of the evidence is that the old trail that topped New Creek Mountain, that bold barrier to the west, came through Dolls Gap as the notch in that mountain is designated on the maps and angled down by the place of the spring.

It adds to the interest of Dolls Gap to know that Washington passed through it and by the Hanks home on the 27th day of September, 1784. The night before Washington spent at the home of Thomas Logston, who lived at the mouth of Stony River, where it empties into the North Fork of the Potomac, where both Grant and Mineral counties, corner on the line of Garrett county, in the state of Maryland. At the house that night was the son of Thomas Logston, the famous Indian fighter, Joseph Logston. He was known as Big Joe Logston, the most powerful man on the

frontier. He moved to Kentucky in the year 1790, from the North Branch and took part in some stirring fights with the Indians. Joe Logston told Washington that the place to cross the mountains with a canal was to go up Dunlaps Creek, which enters the waters of the James river by way of its junction with Jackson River at Covington, Virginia, and across to the waters of the Greenbrier River and down the New River and the Great Kanawha. And when he said this he spoke a parable, for fifty years after that the most stupendous enterprise ever undertaken in Virginia was preparing to do that very thing, that is, to build a canal across the place that Joe Logston mentioned to Washington.

Washington set out on the morning of the 27th about daybreak to reach Romney that day. But after he had traveled twelve miles toward Romney he arrived at the foot of the Allegany front and there, after a discussion, he resolved to take the path that there forked off to go to his friend, Abram Hite, who lived on the old Indian fields in Hardy County, just about the place that A. R. McNeill's tourist camp is located on the South Branch River.

To those familiar with the country and the passes of New Creek Mountain and Patterson Creek Mountain by old trails, it is not hard to follow the line indicated by Washington in his diary.

"27th. I left Mr. Logston's a little after daybreak. Four miles through a bad road occasioned by stone. I crossed Stoney River, which, as hath before been observed, appears larger than the North Branch. At ten miles I had by an imperceptible rise gained the summit of the Allegheny Mountain and began to descend it where it is very steep and bad to the waters of Patterson Creek, which embraces those of New Creek. Along the heads of these and crossing the main creek and mountain bearing the same name. On the top of which at one Snail's, I dined. I came to Col. Abraham Hite's at Fort Pleasant on the South Branch about 35 miles from Logston's a little before the sun's setting. My intentions, when I set out from Logston's was to take the road to Romney, by one Parker's, but learning from my guide, Joseph Logston, when I came to the parting paths at the foot of the Allegheny (about 12 miles) that it was very little farther to go by Fort Pleasant, I resolved to take that, as it might be more in my power on that part of the branch to get information

canal across the mountains. At that time he was a member of a Potomac navigation company. On the day before he reached Logston's the 26th, he rode on the Seneca Trail which he called McCullough's Path, and which ran west of the Allegheny Mountain. On the night of the 25th he camped in Yohogheny Glades. The next day he crossed the Yohogheny River and a mile east he came to the camp of Charles Friend, a hunter. They got boiled corn for the party but nothing for the horses. That afternoon they crossed Backbone Mountain and descended into Ryans Glades and came to the North Branch of the Potomac at McCullough's Path. This point is somewhere near Gorman. They followed down the North Branch as the Western Maryland Railroad does now four miles until they reached Logston's at the mouth of Stony River, railroad station of Schell, a postoffice a little distance north of the town and in Mineral County.

That Charles Friend was the guide, guardian and intimate friend of the Joseph Hanks family and was with them in Kentucky. His son Jesse Friend married Polly Hanks, a daughter of Joseph Hanks. And Charles Friend himself was the father of Dennis Hanks by one of the Hanks girls.

A few years after this time Charles Friend, the Hanks family, and Joe Logston all domiciled in Kentucky:

This is a digression having something to do with poor Lucy's terrible romance which took fifty years of righteous behaviour to live down.

Dolls Gap was brown with the drought. Not much fall pasture. The corn was cut. The livestock had been penned up in corrals so that all the gates could be thrown open. When an automobile coughed and gave up a mile of cars were blocked but many hands lifted the machine to one side and the procession moved on. There was a raw east wind. A platform was built on the west side of the esker and crowds gathered in a natural amphitheater. The people covered the ridge from top to bottom and Dr. Barton felt the inspiration of the moment. The New England crust was broken through and his words were as fervid as the best style of Southern oratory. It was a great speech.

Dr. Barton is hale man of about seventy years ago. He served forty years in the ministry as a Congregationalist. That is the name for the Independents of Cromwell's time, resulting from a split in the Presbyterian church. Pertains to New England in America. Later being recognized as an historian and writer, he has become a world wide notable, and he is in great demand as a writer, speaker, and university visitor.

He has a keen mind, a judicial tem-

perament, and no one is able to sell him any gold bricks.

The Nancy Hanks Commission under Joint Resolution, number 13 of the Legislature, having carefully considered the evidence adduced by Dr. Barton and the local records of the several counties, made a report that Abraham Lincoln's mother was born on the Doll farm, in Mineral County, in 1783 or 1784, and recommended that the state of West Virginia acquire the land as a state park. This does not mean that the Dolls will have to move if the State acts or Congress takes a hand. Their presence there would be an advantage to the plan.

Th present year has seen the opening of the Northwestern Turnpike from east to west by the improvement of the road in the State of Maryland. The tourist crosses a narrow neck of land in Maryland very much as Washington did when he was riding through that country building canals and calling on friends and so forth. The present season saw an enormous increase in tourists and the road is full of cars night and day. The Dolls gap attraction makes a very pleasant side trip by a good county road. From the great highway it is eight miles and it is well worth the time and power to see the place. It is well worth the trouble from a scenic value to say nothing of the historic importance of the spot. As time goes on the place will increase in fame and it will be a Mecca for pilgrims devoted to culture and patriotism from all over this broad land of ours.

The historians were treated royally in the counties on the Eastern Waters. First meeting at Old Fields near Moorefield in Hardy County. This was the site of Point Pleasant and near the Battle of the Trough, one of the most dreadful battles of the French and Indian War, in 1756. The commission made its report and its recommendations in the presence of a steel engraving of Robert E. Lee, a cousin of Abraham Lincoln. Old Fields was also the site of decisive battle of the Civil War, where the Confederate army under McCausland which had burned Chambersburg, were overtaken by Averell and his army and routed. There was nothing but peace there that day. The only jarring note was the red ribbon on the tail of one of the eight farm mules, an intimation of danger.

In the afternoon a visit to Romney with its historic court house. There I got a copy of the deed by which a man who had returned from the dead conveyed and quit claimed his wife to his friend who had married her. Greater love hath no man than this that he relinquish his wife for his friend.

At Keyser a banquet was given in honor of the event by the citizens of that city.

Sunday morning Dr. Barton preached at the Methodist church, but I went out to visit at David G. Martin's hospitable home at Antioch, and got such a dinner as occurs but a few times in a man's life. After all there is nothing in the arts and sciences that excels a good meal.

Then in the afternoon the big meeting at the Doll house.

of the extent of its navigation than I should be able to do at Romney."

The weather is recorded as rainy and the woods were hard to ride through. If the Hanks family had not moved, then Washington passed by the door of their cabin in Dolls Gap and may have seen the seventeen year old mother nursing little Nancy Hanks on her lap.

When the Earth was sick, and the skies were grey, and the woods were rotted with rain, the great man rode through the autumn day to visit his love again.

That quotation came to mind as I was writing down the excerpt from the famous diary of Washington of the trip he made in 1784 in September to find out if he could build a

Cont. from "Price Describes Visit to Nancy Hanks' Birthplace

My visits to Knobley Mountain have been hasty ones but I find that there is a rich history and tradition there and they have their own classics.

In the days of yore when the courts were holding that a man had a constitutional right to take a drink, a farmer suspicioned that his wife was drinking some of his liquor, so he swung his keg of apple brandy to the ridge-pole of his barn. The lady finding it there took the mountain rifle and drilled a hole in the keg and salvaged the contents in buckets.

Another circumstance occurred during the Civil War. A deserting soldier appeared on a lonely farm where an aged man was working and demanded money. The robber drove the farmer at the point of a pistol to

the house to get the savings. The old man opened a bureau drawer as if to get the money, and when he turned he had a revolver with which he shot the deserter dead. They rolled his body in a blanket and buried it in the family grave yard. It was a similar case to the Creigh incident in Greenbrier County, only no one thought of executing a man for resisting a robber.

Here is the quit claim deed: Deed Book 3 page 171, Hampshire County:

To all to whom these presents shall come or may concern, whereas, my wife Barbara, formerly Barbara Decker, hath sometime left me and hath intermarried with James Colvin I do therefore hereby certify that I do freely acquit and discharge the said James and Barbara from all trouble or damages by means of their intermarriage and do consent that they may dwell and cohabit together as husband and wife for the future without any intervention from me.

Given under my hand and seal this 19th day of February, 1773.

Jacob Kuykendall, (Seal)

Editors Visit Nancy Hanks' Birthplace

Surveyor Martin Acts As Guide In Pointing Out Places of Interest

Inspired by the Hon. Andrew Price's article in last week's Herald, the editors set out Sunday afternoon in search of Mike's Gap, the sylvan vale where Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, first looked upon the light of day.

Deeds recently found in Hardy county by Mr. Price left no doubt that the site of the Hanks' homestead was in New Creek district, on the Doll farm in Mike's Gap, at the headwaters of Mike's Run, between New Creek and Knobley mountains.

The site accepted several years ago following Dr. W. E. Barton's discovery that Lincoln's mother was born in Mineral county, was located at the mouth of Mike's Run in Welton district.

Leaving the Northwestern turnpike at Ridgeville, we turned the Jewett toward Antioch, where we sought out David G. Martin, well-known surveyor and highly respectable citizen of that community. Mr. Martin has resided in the Antioch vicinity fifty years and has surveyed most of the land in that section. Because he recognized that the data available before Mr. Price's recent discovery was not sufficient to locate the Hanks' land exactly, Mr. Martin was one of those who refused to concur in the acceptance of the mouth of Mike's Run as the site of the Hanks' homestead.

Accompanied by Mr. Martin, we traveled about four miles along the Antioch-Maysville road until we reached the old homestead which was the birthplace of our fellow townsman, T. C. Dye. At this point we left the main road and turning to the right, passed thru the Gap and arrived at the Hanks' land, now part of the Doll farm.

Members of the Doll family had read Mr. Price's article in our issue of last week and gave us a friendly greeting.

There are two farm houses on the original tract of land, both occupied by members of the Doll family. Efforts to locate the exact spot where the Hanks' cabin stood have so far

been unsuccessful. The only known clue to the site of the cabin is found in the story handed down to her son by an aged lady of that section, who had the reputation for veracity and few, but dependable words, it being said of her she spoke only when she had something to say. Her story was that Joseph Hanks hearing a disturbance near the pig pen crossed the run to the pen. A premonition of danger caused him to look back over his shoulder and he saw a lynx springing toward him. Swinging a tomahawk, which he carried, he struck the animal across the eye and killed it. Two details of this story are significant. Noise from the pen was audible at the cabin and it was necessary to cross the run to reach the pen. This would indicate that the cabin was close to the run.

J. W. Doll, who is nearly eighty years of age, can recall the ruins of four log cabins located near the run and on the Hanks' tract. Which one was occupied by the Hanks family will probably remain a mystery.

Mr. Martin was an instructive and interesting guide. He exhibited some interesting old deeds. One of them was signed in September, 1800, by James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States, who was then Governor of Virginia. Written on parchment, in excellent penmanship, such as was characteristic of legal papers of that day, the deeds are in an excellent state of preservation.

Report of the Nancy Hanks Commission

The Nancy Hanks Commission appointed by Governor W. G. Conley to investigate the authenticity of the location of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks on Mikes Run met Saturday morning at McNeill's inn near Moorefield, and after examining the various records, were convinced there was no doubt that Nancy Hanks was born while the family resided on Mike's Run and that the homestead was on the present site of the Doll farm.

Members of the commission present were: Hon. Andrew Price, who was named chairman, Mrs. A. A. Pickering of Rowlesburg; and W. H. Barger, of Keyser. The other members, Hon. John M. Crawford, of Parkersburg, and Hon. Phil Conley, of Charleston, were unable to attend the meeting.

The report of the commission follows.

To His Excellency, Hon. Wm. G. Conley, Governor of West Virginia, and to the
Legislature of West Virginia:

In conformity with Joint Resolution No. 13, passed at the session of 1929, by the Legislature of West Virginia, in regard to the fact that West Virginia is entitled to claim in the Lineage of Abraham Lincoln, to whom West Virginia owes her right to be numbered as one of the sovereign states of the Union, your commission reports:

1. That Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born at some date not earlier than June 11, 1783, not later than June 11, 1784, in Hampshire county, at the foot of New Creek Mountain on Mikes Run. Said site is now in the bounds of Mineral County in New Creek District.

2. The Commission adopts as the best evidence of which the matter is susceptible, the report and writings of Dr. William E. Barton, the historian, of Foxboro, Massachusetts. No one else has ever given the subject of the genealogy of Lincoln anything like the investigation of Dr. Barton. No one has been able to report on this subject with the judicial calm of Dr. Barton. No one else has shown so little bias or prejudice. Dr. Barton's works have been widely read and carefully scrutinized. They have stood the pitiless test of publicity. The truth is established. It is another case of the safe appeal of truth to time.

3. The immediate relationship of the mother of Abraham Lincoln is briefly related as follows: Joseph Hanks, a citizen of Richmond county near the sea in the Northern Neck, Virginia, was born in 1725. He married Anne Lee. Their daughter, Lucy, was the mother of Nancy, born in Hampshire county in 1783 or 1784. Joseph Hanks was the father of five sons and four daughters.

This youngest daughter also was named Nancy, the same name as Lucy Hanks' child, and about the same age. The fact that there were two children named Nancy Hanks in the same family has resulted in the confusion in the minds of biographers, as perhaps it was meant to do. Dr. Barton has straightened this out before it was everlastingly too late, to which history owes him a debt of gratitude.

4. Joseph Hanks, the pioneer, moved to the headwaters of the Potomac River in time to be included in the census of 1782 as a resident of Hampshire county, together with his wife and nine children. He and his family moved westward and settled by 1787 on the waters of Green River, Kentucky. There his grandchild, Nancy, sometimes referred to as Nancy Sparrow and sometimes as Nancy Hanks, grew up to be a beautiful, refined and virtuous woman, a fit and proper parent of an immortal. She married Thomas Lincoln in the year 1806. In 1809 she gave birth to Abraham Lincoln, and was spared to direct and shape the course of this most important man in the annals of our country. Mrs. Thomas Lincoln departed this life in the year 1818, from an attack of undulant fever, a most dreadful and powerful form of death. Neither she nor her son knew that Abraham Lincoln's genius would be realized only after death.

5. The place of Nancy Hanks' birth has been definitely established by the records of Hampshire county, Hardy county and Mineral County. This is not only a historical fact, but it has been ascertained to a legal certainty. The place is a boundary of land containing 108 acres, on the extreme headwaters of Mikes Run, a branch of Patterson Creek, in New Creek District, Mineral County, West Virginia. In 1787 the land was conveyed to Jacob Doll and it has remained in the possession of his descendants ever since. The original grant was made by Lord Fairfax to Peter Hartman. In 1811, it was re-entered in the name of Jacob Doll as 115½ acres. See land grant book number 6 p 104 in the office of the Auditor of West Virginia. The first grant was to Peter Hartman, see Book 3 p 588. The present occupant is J. W. Doll, whose post-office address is Antioch, West Virginia. In addition to the historical interest, this farm of 108 acres is a remarkable geologic formation. It is a retreat bounded on one side by New Creek Mountain and one the other side by Knobley Mountain, and a complete enclosure is made by two cross ridges. A more perfect retreat would be hard to imagine. Entrance to this nook is by

a gap in Knobley Mountain. Six generations of the Doll family have lived there.

6. The Commission commends that the State of West Virginia acquire this sheltered place in the hills as a state park, both for its historical significance and for its picturesque value. The Commission reserves the right to supplement this report.

Given under our hands this 21st day of September, 1929.

MRS. A. A. PICKERING,
W. H. BARGER,
ANDREW PRICE

Nancy Hanks Commission
Being the members present
September 21, 1929.

The Piedmont Herald
Piedmont, W. Va.
Sept. 26, 1929

Nancy Hanks' Birthplace Dedicated By Dr. Wm. E. Barton At Service Sunday

Commission Reports That Without Doubt Mother of Abraham Lincoln Was Born On Mike's Run In Mineral County

The site of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, was dedicated Sunday by Dr. Wm. E. Barton, Lincoln biographer, who first discovered that Nancy Hanks was born somewhere on Mike's Run in Mineral County.

Nearly one thousand persons attended the ceremonies which took place on the Doll farm. W. H. Barger, of Keyser, member of the Nancy Hanks Commission created by the West Virginia Legislature, presided over the exercises.

Hon. Andrew Price, of Marlinton, president of the West Virginia Historical Society, and also a member of the Nancy Hanks Commission, described his successful efforts to locate the records which definitely established the fact that the tract of land owned by Joseph Hanks, is the same land now occupied by the Doll farm.

D. G. Martin, surveyor of Antioch, who rendered valuable assistance by reason of his knowledge of the land and records, was introduced, as was also Joseph W. Doll, aged 80 years, whose family has owned the Hanks tract since they purchased it from Peter Putnam, after the latter had foreclosed the mortgage on Joseph Hanks. Mr. Doll was able to recall facts told to him by his grandfather concerning the building of a cabin on the Doll Farm from the logs of another cabin which seems certain to have been the Hanks home. The Hanks cabin stood, according to Mr. Doll's statements, close by a splendid spring near which one of the farm houses of the Doll family now stands.

Rev. James A. Johnson, of Grace M. E. Church, South, Keyser, also delivered an appropriate address.

Music was furnished by a vocal quartette.

The dedication by Dr. Barton was both beautiful and impressive. A summary of the historical data he gave and his tribute to the Hanks and Lincoln families follow:

A SHRINE OF MOTHERHOOD By William E. Barton

Address, Delivered at the Dedication of the Birthplace of Nancy Hanks, Mother of Abraham Lincoln, Mike's Run, Mineral County, West Virginia, Sunday, September 22, 1929:

"Hidden in the heart of these impressive mountains, this secluded farm emerges today into nation-wide prominence. Here, just at the close of the struggle that gave to the American colonies their independence, was born the little girl for whom was reserved the illustrious maternity of Abraham Lincoln. We have assembled to remind ourselves of the significance to American life of the pioneer home, and to honor the mother of that great man in whom were united the heritage of north and south and who incarnates the ideal of a unified America.

"It will be fitting that we remind ourselves of the essential facts which lie behind the discovery of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, and to say something of the character of the family that for a short but significant period was resident in this lovely valley, walled in by its everlasting hills.

"Soon after his election to Congress, where he served a single term in 1848-9, Abraham Lincoln was requested by men of that name in Massachusetts to write out his knowledge of his father's family, and he did this with surprising accuracy. Such knowledge as he had received from his father, Thomas Lincoln, joined to that possessed by the Massachusetts Lincolns, enables us to state definitely the facts concerning the Lincolns. The family came to this country in 1637, the pioneer being Samuel Lincoln. He lived and died at Hingham. His son, Mordecai, a miller and ironmaster, established his mill at the borders of Scituate and Cohasset, and the remains of his three milldams are still visible there. Mordecai's son, also named Mordecai, removed to New Jersey and later to Pennsylvania, pursuing his vocation as an iron founder. His son, John, born in Pennsylvania, went to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. John's son, Captain Abraham Lincoln, went to Kentucky in 1782, taking with him his wife named Bathsheba and three sons and two daughters. He was killed by Indians in May, 1786. His son, Thomas Lin-

coln, born in Virginia, married Nancy Hanks, June 12, 1806, and they became the parents of Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809. On the paternal side, therefore, the Lincoln line descends from Puritan New England through Virginia to Kentucky and Illinois.

"But Abraham Lincoln had no such occasion to set down in order the dates and events in his maternal line. Quite possibly he did not know them all. This, however, he said, in the material he furnished for a campaign biography in 1860, that his father was 28 and his mother was in her 23rd year when they were married. That means that Nancy Hanks was born between June 12, 1783, and June 11, 1784. Where was the Hanks' family during that year?

"The answer is that they were on Mike's Run of Patterson's Creek, and we are now standing on the soil which they wrested from the wilderness, and very near to the site of the cabin where Nancy Hanks was born.

"The Virginia enumeration of 1782 which was later incorporated in the First United States Census in 1790 showed the family of Joseph Hanks, with a total of eleven persons, all white, residents in Hampshire County. The enumeration was made by Major Vincent Williams within the two weeks ending September 24, 1782. We know the names of those eleven persons. There were Joseph Hanks, aged 57, his wife, Ann Lee Hanks, their son, Thomas, aged 23, who had preceded the family to this locality, four younger sons and four daughters, the eldest of which daughters was then seventeen. Her name was Lucy, and she was attractive, intelligent, and could read and write.

"Joseph Hanks mortgaged his

farm in March, 1784, and removed from Virginia, and established a new home in Nelson County, Kentucky, where he died in 1793. By any possible computation the birth of Nancy Hanks occurred during the residence of the Hanks family on this farm.

"Up to this time the Hanks family had not been migratory. They had lived in Gloucester County from a date several years prior to 1653, until after Bacon's rebellion, the large Hanks estate adjoining that of Col. Richard Lee, ancestor of Robert E. Lee. After the blood and fire of that uprising the Lees and Hankses moved across the Rappahannock and for more than a hundred added years lived neighbors. About them were some of the most illustrious families in Virginia, and the Hankses and Lees intermarried. The wife of Joseph Hanks who dwelt in this very spot, the mother of those five sons and four daughters, was a Lee, Ann Lee, daughter of William Lee. One-eighth of the blood of Abraham Lincoln was Lee blood. Nor was that the only marriage between the Lees and Hankses. The Hankses were not aristocrats but they intermarried with good families. There was good blood in Abraham Lincoln.

"The Doll family has owned this farm almost from the day that the Hanks family departed, and Mr. Joseph W. Doll, now nearly eighty years of age, recalling what his grandfather told him is able to bring to us testimony that is almost contemporary with the Hankses. He informs me, and will confirm what I say if I report him correctly and correct me if I am in error, that his grandfather took down the original Hanks house, which stood in the spot that has been pointed out to you near the spring, and that the logs were 34 feet long and were cut down by him to 27 feet. The Hanks house was thus a large cabin as it had need to be for so large a family. I assume that Thomas Hanks had cut the logs for it before the arrival of the rest of the family and that Joseph in one or more extended visits here before the final removal of the family from Richmond County had with the assistance of Thomas and perhaps of others erected the house; so that the family had shelter on their arrival. In any event, this was their home when Nancy Hanks was born.

"The family of Joseph Hanks lived here only a short time and moved to Kentucky. We need not here and now discuss the reasons. We do not know the reasons though we may conjecture what some of them were. One reason may be that Lee relatives of Mrs. Joseph Hanks had gone on to Kentucky. Joseph Hanks bought his farm there from John Lee. And there may have been other reasons of a more inti-

mate nature. What we are sure of is that this is where Nancy Hanks was born. This is a shrine of motherhood, sacred to all fond and enabling association to maternity and to patriotism.

"Here we may fondly remember the greatness of the man who loved both north and south, whose heart was large enough to hold high regard for all America, and who said of the little girl born on this spot, 'All that I am or hope to be I owe to my mother.'

"I have been asked to make this an address of dedication, and I have devoted my time to this labor of description that you may be sure of the processes by which the identification of this spot has been assured. But now I gladly perform the act which has been requested of me.

"I might almost paraphrase the words of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg and say that this spot is already dedicated by that which was

wrought here in the long ago, but that would not make it inappropriate for us to add our act of dedication.

"And now, insofar as it may be possible, I join with you in this act of dedication. To the sanctity of motherhood, to the dignity and promise of humble life, to the hope that is in the cradle; to the honor of the pioneer home, I join you in dedicating this soil. As an appreciation of natural beauty which the hand of man has not spoiled but which human industry has rescued from the wilderness to the processes of civilization, I dedicate this spot. To the honor of West Virginia whose statehood is the contribution of Abraham Lincoln to our natural life, I dedicate this lovely and picturesque valley among her glorious hills. To patriotism, to home life, to the growing hope of our nation, we, the first company of people ever assembled here in honor of Nancy Hanks, dedicate this land where her infant footsteps first trod, to the honor of God and the recognition of all civic virtue, so long as our nation shall endure."

THE PIEDMONT HERALD, PIEDMONT, W. VA.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26, 1929

LINCOLN LORE

No. 28

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 21, 1929

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the

LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - Editor

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NANCY HANKS' BIRTH- PLACE

Hon. William G. Conley, governor of West Virginia, recently appointed a commission to determine the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. Those chosen to make the investigation and report their findings to the legislature are Mrs. A. A. Pickering, Rowlesburg; Andrew Price, Marlinton; W. H. Barger, Keyser; Phil Conley, Charleston; and John M. Crawford, Parkersburg.

Due to the fact that the conclusions of this commission must involve some questions far more important than merely locating the probable site of Nancy Hanks' nativity, the decision to which they shall finally come is of vital interest to all Lincoln students. The chairman of the commission, Mr. Andrew Price, who is also president of the West Virginia Historical Society, has contributed his personal views on the subject, which appeared in The Pocahontas Times, of Marlinton, August 29, 1929. Some of his conclusions are as follows:

1. Nancy Hanks' father was George Washington.
2. Her mother was Lucy Hanks.
3. Her mother's parents were Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks.
4. She was born in the cabin of Joseph Hanks situated on Mikes Run in what is now Mineral County, West Virginia.
5. The date of her birth was sometime between the spring of 1782 and the spring of 1784.

There are but two statements over the signature of Abraham Lincoln which speak of his mother's origin or family connections. An alleged conversation between Herndon and Lincoln in 1850, touching on this subject, but not mentioned or recorded until after Lincoln's death, fifteen years later, cannot be considered an authoritative source.

Lincoln's Autobiographical Sketches

"He (Thomas Lincoln) married Nancy Hanks—mother of the present subject—in the year 1806. She also was born in Virginia; and relatives of her's of the name of Hanks, and of other names, now reside in Coles, in Macon, and in Adams counties, Illinois, and also in Iowa. . . . He is the same John Hanks who now engineers the 'rail enterprise' at Decatur, and is a first cousin to Abraham's mother." Autobiography prepared for Scripps in 1860.

"My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say." Sketch prepared for Fell, in 1859.

It is the purpose of this broadside to present for the consideration of the commission some duly authorized public records which seem to be directly associated with the task before them. In attacking this problem it would seem wise to set aside, for the present at least, the great mass of conflicting traditions which bear upon this question. The only logical and safe approach should be made through duly authorized public records which speak with authority.

We are fortunate to find available documents which affirm the statement which Lincoln had made about the marriage of his parents, although he did not know such records existed. Jesse Head, the officiating clergyman, certified that on June 12, 1806, he joined together in the Holy estate of "Matrimony" Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Two days before this wedding the following marriage bond had been filed:

Lincoln-Hanks Marriage Bond

"Know all men by these presents that we, Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry are held and firmly bound. . . . sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of June 1806. The conditions of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended between the above named Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, for which a license has been issued. . . ."

Thomas Lincoln (Seal)
Richard Berry (Seal)
gardin

Witness John H. Parrott
Washington County (Ky.) Court

An early Kentucky statute which required that a marriage license could only issue from the clerk of the county "where the female usually resides," should assure us that Washington county was the home of Lincoln's mother.

The most significant fact which this bond reveals is that a guardian signed the paper for Nancy Hanks as her representative. This allows us to conclude that she had not reached the age of twenty-one at the time the bond was issued. Her birth date, therefore, must have been later than June 10, 1785.

Richard Berry, who had qualified as guardian of Nancy Hanks, was apparently her "next of kin." The procedure in appointing a guardian in Kentucky was as follows: "The court shall pay proper attention to the following order of precedence in right, and not depart therefrom unless it deems that prudence and interest of the infant so require: First, the father. Secondly, the mother, if unmarried. Thirdly, the next of kin, giving preference to males."

The fact that Nancy Hanks had a named guardian at the time of her marriage should allow one to make certain deductions. The most likely

conclusion to draw would be that one of her parents was dead. If this were so, it is very evident that since her father was not named as her guardian it was he who had passed away. A further deduction is also possible; if the mother still survived, she had married again, which made her ineligible for the guardianship. This would involve the search for some record bearing the name of a Hanks woman who would answer the necessary requirements, chronologically, geographically, and socially. What are known as the Lucey Hanks marriage papers in Mercer county seem to comply with all these needs.

On April 30, 1790, John Bailey, a Baptist preacher, endorsed a marriage certificate made out to Henry Sparrow and Lucey Hanks stating that they had been "joined in matrimony", by him on the above date. Four days previous to this wedding the certificate had been issued by the clerk of Mercer county, and on the same day a marriage bond had been signed by Henry Sparrow and John Daniel, his brother-in-law. John Daniel also signed a certificate that Lucey Hanks was of age. On November 24, 1789, five months before her marriage, a Mercer county Grand Jury made the following presentment: "Lucey Hanks for Fornication." She was never brought to trial on this indictment, and, after her marriage to Henry Sparrow, the case was dismissed.

The most important of the Lucey Hanks papers is herewith presented verbatim:

Lucey Hanks Certificate

"I do Sertify that I am of age and give my apprebation freely for henry Sparrow to git out Lisons this or enny other day given under my hand this day April 26th 1790."

Test (wi)doy
Robert Lucey
michel Hanks
John berry

Mercer County (Ky.) Court

This certificate reveals that Lucey Hanks was over twenty-one years of age at the time of her marriage to Sparrow. Since no Hanks name appears as a witness or bondsman on any of the marriage documents, it is not likely that she was then associated with any Hanks family. The two men who served as witnesses to the above certificate were closely related to Richard Berry, the guardian of Nancy Hanks. John Berry was a brother of Richard and when he made his will in 1795 he named Richard Berry and Robert Mitchell the executors of his estate. The relation of Lucey Hanks to the Berry and Mitchell families is not made clear in these records, but her close association with them is evident. If we were positive about the maiden name of Lucey Hanks her contact with the Berry family and the guardianship of Nancy might be clarified.

There is one word in this certificate which satisfies me, that when Lucey

(Continued to No. 29)

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THE LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS MEETING AT GALESBURG, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 7, 1858

—Christian Science Monitor.

PICTURE OF AUDIENCE, LINCOLN AND "OLD MAIN" DURING THE
DEBATE OF LINCOLN AND DOUGLAS AT GALESBURG.

L I N C O L N L O R E

No. 29

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 28, 1929

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the
LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - Editor

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(Continued from No. 28)

Hanks signed her name she signed it, "Widow" Lucey Hanks. Just before the letters "doy" at the beginning of her signature, and apparently connected with these three letters, are tracings which appear to me to be the letters "wi." The pronunciation of the word in pioneer days would account for the use of the final "y" in the spelling. The writer is aware of the fact that there are those who do not accept his interpretation of this signature, and while there is no question in his own mind as to what Lucey Hanks wrote, the dimness of the two important letters prevents a positive affirmation which cannot be challenged. Here in the county adjacent to the community where Nancy Hanks lived, we have found a woman whom I believe to have been the widow of a Mr. Hanks, the father of Nancy.

One other Kentucky document should be exhibited here as bearing upon the identity of the Hanks family, to which Lincoln's mother was related:

Joseph Hanks' Will

"In the name of God Amen. I Joseph Hanks, of Nelson County, State of Kentucky, being of sound mind and memory. . . . I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas. . . . my son Joshua. . . . my son William. . . . my son Charles. . . . my son Joseph one horse called Bald also the land whereon I now live. . . . my daughter Elizabeth. . . . my daughter Polly. . . . my daughter Nancy. . . . I give and bequeath unto my wife Nanny all and singular my whole estate during her life afterward to be equally divided between all my children. . . . Signed sealed and delivered in presence of us this eighth day of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three."

his
Joseph X Hanks
mark

Witnesses, Isane Lansdale, John Davis, Peter Atherton.

The above will was entered for probate in Nelson County on May 14, 1793, five months after it was signed.

Since William Hanks, named in this will, was the father of John Hanks, whom Lincoln claimed was first cousin of his mother, it is desirable to show some contact between the Joseph Hanks who signed the will, and the Lucey Hanks who married Henry Sparrow in 1790. If the integrity of the will is to be conserved and the

marriage papers of Lucey Hanks properly appraised, but one deduction can be made which would not violate the evidence of these records and still allow the cousin relationship of John Hanks and the president's mother to be maintained. Lucey must have been a daughter-in-law of Joseph, her husband having died at least four years before Joseph made his will.

One other supposition has been set forth to show the relationship between Joseph Hanks and Lucey Hanks. It is based on the assumption that Nancy Hanks was the unnatural child of Lucey Hanks and took her mother's name. There is no documentary support for this supposition. It further assumes that Lucey Hanks was a daughter of Joseph Hanks. Her name does not appear in the will in which Joseph names his living children and specifies that after the death of his wife the estate "be equally divided between all my children." A further assumption, based on the alleged illegitimacy of Nancy and some later irregularities of Lucey holds that Joseph Hanks cut her off in his will. At the time Joseph Hanks made his will Lucey had been happily married to Henry Sparrow for two and one-half years. Joseph lived for five months after the will was made and by this time at least two of Lucey's eight children were born. If Joseph Hanks' anger towards a daughter, who had been living an honorable married life for three years, was so intense that he did not care to have her share in his estate, he would have been more cautious in the wording of the document which was to disown her.

One other observation supports the fact that Lucey Hanks was not a daughter of Joseph Hanks. When she was asked by the clerk of Mercer county to present a certificate that she was over twenty-one years of age it would have been necessary to secure the signature of either her father or mother to this affirmation if they were living in the adjacent county of Nelson. It would also follow that her father or at least one of her five brothers would have been asked to sign the marriage bond, if she were a daughter of the Joseph Hanks in question.

The most difficult task which the West Virginia commission has to perform is to establish the connection between the Joseph Hanks of the Kentucky will and a Joseph Hanks whose name appears on certain documents in Hampshire county, Virginia. It is unfortunate that the census returns for Hampshire county, in the year 1782, do not give the names or the sex of the other ten members of Joseph Hanks' family. It is also to be regretted that the name of Joseph Hanks' wife does not appear on the land document for 1784. Some assistance is derived from another Hampshire county document bearing the name of Joseph Hanks, of which a photographic copy has been received

from Mrs. C. F. White, of Brookline, Massachusetts. It is a tax report for the year 1782 revealing that Joseph Hanks was the only male member of his family, of eleven, who had reached the age of twenty-one at that time.

The pension claim of Thomas Hanks, stating that he was born in 1759, place not named, and drafted into service in Hampshire county in 1780, does not make the desired transition between the Kentucky and Virginia Hankses. There is no positive evidence that he was the same Thomas whose name appears on the will of Joseph Hanks. He could not have been one of Joseph Hanks' family of "eleven white souls", living in Hampshire county in 1782, as he was twenty-three years old at this time and Joseph Hanks was the only male member of his family who was above the age of twenty-one. It would be just as difficult to show by the use of public records any relation whatever between the Joseph Hanks, who lived in Hampshire county, Virginia, and the Joseph Hanks who lived in Richmond county, Virginia.

There are any number of traditions which have come down through different branches of the Hanks families which attempt to establish the identity of Lincoln's mother. There are also available in print several traditions and theories, attempting to trace Lincoln's maternal ancestry, which are cited below in case the commission cares to refer to any of them.

Traditional Parents of Nancy Hanks

George Washington & Lucy Hanks'
John Marshall & Lucy Hanks'
Unknown Va. farmer & Lucy Hanks'
Joseph Hanks & Nancy Shipley Hanks'
Henry Sparrow & Lucy Hanks Sparrow'
Thomas Sparrow & Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow'
John Berry & Lucy Hanks'
Hanks & Lucy Shipley Hanks'
William Hanks & Hanks'
Hanks & Berry Hanks''
Luke Hanks & Ann Hanks''

It is very clear that duly authorized public records should not be corrected or nullified to fit traditions or theories, but the great mass of data which has been gathered on this question should only be allowed to stand as it is in harmony with the documents which speak with authority.

References

- (1) The Pocahontas Times, Price, August 29, 1929.
 - (2) The Sorrows of Nancy, Boyd, p. 78.
 - (3) Life of Lincoln, Herndon, Vol. 1, p. 3.
 - (4) Nancy Hanks, Hitchcock, p. 25.
 - (5) Life of Lincoln, Herndon, Vol. 1, p. 3, note.
 - (6) The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Lamon, p. 11.
 - (7) Origins of Clements Spaulding and Allied Families, Clements, appendix, p. 2.
 - (8) Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood, Warren, p. 31.
 - (9) What of Lincoln a North Carolinian, Cozzens, p. 13.
 - (10) Lincoln the Citizen, Whitney, p. 16.
 - (11) History of North Carolina, Arthur, p. 319.
- NOTE: The spelling of the word Lucey in the argument is adopted to agree with the spelling in the signature on the certificate—Ed.

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Lincoln's Tribute to American Women

"I am not accustomed to the use of language of eulogy. I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women, but I must say, that if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of women were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during this war. I will close by saying, God bless the women of America." -
 Said by Abraham Lincoln in Washington at the "Ladies' Fair," March 21-1864.



Deposited - 12 - 1942 -

[TRIBUNE Photo.]

Feb. 13. 1942 -

G. A. R. veterans at Hotel Sherman. Left to right, seated: William Finley, 99; A. E. Gage, 97; Theodore Witte, 95. Standing: James Harvey, 96; M. H. Myers, 100; James Crugom, 91; Thomas Ambrose, 93; J. H. Lewis, 101; W. P. Lockwood, 94.

NANCY HANKS' BIRTHPLACE

By ANDREW PRICE,
In the National Republic.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born on the headwaters of the Potomac River, either in the year 1784, or in the year 1785, the daughter of Lucy Hanks and the granddaughter of Joseph Hanks. The place now is in the bounds of West Virginia.

Joseph Hanks was born in Richmond County, near the Potomac River, in the year 1725. He lived there until the year 1779, when he went to the mountains in the extreme western part of the Fairfax grant, with his wife, Anne Lee, and his nine children. He established a home in the woods on 108 acres of land and built a substantial log house, and remained there not later than 1787, when he moved to the county of Kentucky and settled in the Rough River portion where his descendants now live and their name is legion.

Senate Resolution No. 13, authorized the Governor of West Virginia to appoint a commission of five persons to look into the matter and to report to the Legislature. In this way I got license to go to work on the question. Every drop of my blood is Confederate but no man on earth can have a higher regard for Abraham Lincoln than myself. It seems to me that justice to his memory comes with better grace from the men he conquered. But this present inquiry has made me the champion of Lincoln's mother, who lived poor, and died hard, and was acquainted with grief, for I have found in her qualities that entitled her to be ranked with the noblest women of the world. A rare and radiant woman, of whom her illustrious son lived to say, that all that he was or ever hoped to be he owed to his mother.

In thought, word and deed, in natural refinement, in religion, there has never been a better woman than Nancy Hanks. This may be belated justice but it is the truth.

Of the five appointed to the commission, I was the lawyer member, and for many years I have been wrestling with the peculiar land laws of Virginia, the jig-saw puzzle of the colonies.

The clue that had been found in the records of Hampshire County was a recorded mortgage by which Joseph Hanks, in 1784, borrowed twenty pounds from Peter Putnam and gave a lien on his farm described as part of a Peter Hartman grant on Mikes Run. No metes or bounds were given. There was no deed recorded in Hampshire County that corresponded to this 108 acres either prior to it or subsequent. It occurred to me that if Peter Hartman did have a title that he could have used to place Joseph Hanks in possession, it would be a Fairfax grant. That is, a title paper from Lord Fairfax who held all the land in the Northern Neck, 22 counties, under a gift from Charles I, just before he laid his aristocratic neck upon the block to have it cut by a plebeian ax. If it was such a grant it would not be recorded in a county, but at Richmond, the capital of the colony. From those records, it was speedily discovered that Peter Hartman had located 216 acres on the head of Mikes Run by metes and bounds, and got a deed from Fairfax. The fact that 216 acres is just twice 108 acres was about the only golden thought to be gathered then in connecting it up with Joseph Hanks. Then the flash came in the watches of the night. Why not look in Hardy County, formed from Hampshire in 1785? Sure enough! There we found a deed dated in 1787, from Peter Hartman in which Peter Putnam joined, for 108 acres, one half of the 216 acres, to Jacob Doll. And another deed for the other half. It was plain to be seen that Joseph Hanks had abandoned his mortgaged land to his creditor. The Dolls have lived on the land continuously for 142 years. The sixth generation is represented there now. Two farm houses are on the tract. The present patriarch is J. W. Doll, 80 years old, active mentally and physically.

At the time that Joseph Hanks lived there, he occupied a house of hewed logs 34 feet long, which was torn down and rebuilt by J. W. Doll's father.

The finding of the Nancy Hanks commission is that the mother of Abraham Lincoln was born at Dolls Gap, near the village of Antioch, in the County of Mineral, in West Virginia.

It is not known to what extent the State of West Virginia or the Federal Government will see fit to mark the spot.

Barbecue Stand Near Lincoln's Mother's Birthplace On Route 50 Near Here Gives Idea for a Book

Seniors of Grafton High School Working On Story in Book
Form Relative to Historic Old Homestead Where Nancy
Hanks Was Reared.

A barbecue stand with a historical name started something that Grafton high school seniors hope to finish before they leave in June 1931. What they plan to do is to write a book covering the interesting and historical as well as all scenic spots in West Va. within a day's tour of Grafton.

The Nancy Hanks barbecue, located on Route 50, east, was that little stand that started everything. "Just why do you call this the Nancy Hanks Barbecue?" inquired Miss Ruth Batton, teacher of senior English at the high school.

Miss Batton was informed by the manager that he had named the roadside inn "because Nancy Hanks Lincoln's old home place is about seven miles up the road. The house isn't there now and it's just a bunch of brambles." However, Miss Batton made a visit to this historical spot that Miss Anna Jarvis is making a fight to have a

suitable marker erected upon.

Perhaps it was when she visited this site where the mother of one of America's greatest men was born that the idea to have her English IV students make a book containing the information concerning the interesting historical information on spots of general interest both as history and scenic which are both known and unknown to the average West Virginia tourist, was born.

When the original book is completed it will be presented to the library of the high school.

Each of the spots to be described in this book will be within a day's drive of Grafton. The locations will all be listed and students who know most about them be assigned to cover them. It is expected that the book will be one of the most interesting to yet be produced in any Taylor county school or by any group of individuals.

Yost, Coyd
Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Dir. of the Lincoln Research
Committee.
Fortwayne, Ind.

COYD YOST
PHOTOGRAPHER
KEYSER, WEST VIRGINIA

January 17, 1931.

Dear Sir:

I have in my file negatives made at Nancy Hanks birth-
place while Dr. Barton visited there.

This location which Dr. Barton located is on Likes
Run, Mineral County, West Virginia near Keyser. I have a picture of
Dr. William E. Barton, two views of the mountains around the birth-
place, picture of Likes Run and road leading to the Doll farm from
the county road, one of Mr. Doll the oldest member of the family
pointing to the place the Hanks home stood and one of Mr. Doll
dinking from the well thought to be the one the Hanks used.

These pictures are size 5x7 printed on 8x10 paper
and sell for 1.00 each. If you would be interested in any of these
pictures please let me know. Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Dr. Barton has used these
pictures.

Coyd Yost

Warren



MRS. CYRUS SCOTT
501 FAIRMONT AVENUE
FAIRMONT, WEST VIRGINIA

July 8th 1936

Lincoln Bus. Co.,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sirs:-

Not so long ago
When I visited your Lin-
coln Museum, the attache
told me that you had pos-
itively authenticated the
location of Nancy Hank's
birthplace. He also stated
that it was not on the moun-
tain above Meyer MS⁹ but
in "Old Virginia" Kentucky
also losing the honor. Your
records were not available
due to noon-time but I was
informed that by waiting I
would be furnished with the

information is so requested -
I shall appreciate very
much your courtesy if you
will give me any data from
your records which will def-
initely settle any contro-
versy on the subject.

Thanking you, I am
very truly yours,

Mabel S. Scott
(Mrs. C. G.)

Nancy Hanks Lincoln County

July 14, 1936

Mrs. Cyrus Scott
501 Fairmont Avenue
Fairmont, West Virginia

My dear Madam:

We regret very much that you seem to have been misinformed as to our knowledge of the birth place of Abraham Lincoln's mother.

While we think there is sufficient evidence available to eliminate the Keyser, West Virginia, location as well as several other traditional birth places, as far as I know there is no positive evidence which will allow us to speak with authority on the actual place as the birth place of Nancy Hanks. Enclosed you will please find photostat copies of two bulletins which will give you some idea as to the traditional accounts of her parentage and birthplace.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Henderson, N.C. July 11, 1936

Dear Sir,

Recently I wrote 8000 words on points of interest of this Vance County, in which I stated that there was an old tradition that Nancy Hanks was born here, the Hanks place being north of Townesville.

To which the State Director said "There are so many claims, look up your proofs".

But as I got into the matter, I have found the claim she was dtr. of Lucy, born in Mineral ~~####~~ Co W.Va. See Delineator Feb, 1936. Also she was daughter of Lucy, who with ~~###~~ Uncle Dick Hanks and Nancy & Amanda were in Western part of N.C. Another two men from Anderson, S.C. write me they have story for sale of her being there.

And I hear another story she was from Amelia Co. Va., which I am trying to get.

I can see discrepancies in these stories, and "Ludie J Kirkland" Curator The Filson Club, Louisville, Ky., writes me to send you my story, and to ask you what other story there is, or where in your opinion Nancy was born & c.

Vance Co was cut from Granville Co in 1881, so these records are from Oxford, N.C. 11 miles west of Henderson. As far as I know this story has never been printed or put out.

In 1768, Wm. Hanks from Dinwiddie Co Va. bought 225 acres 6 miles north of Henderson (see map).

In 1770 Elijah Hanks bought 200 acres, next on west of his father.

In 1784 Wm Hanks bought 270 acres joining his 225 a. *from state of N.C.*

In 1771 Wm. Hanks married Millicent Hargrove (This looks like the senior making a second marriage as Wm Jr. widow is Sally)

In 1787 Wm Sr died, leaving the "land over the ridge" to son Elijah, all old deeded land to son Wm. To son Argil "Negro boy Simon". to dtr. Hannah Moore "boy Samuel" to dtr Milly Barnes "land she lives on, after her death to her son Wm Barnes."

In 1794 Wm Hanks Jr died, leaving a widow Sally & son Wm. Hy. not of age.

In 1797, Elijah Hanks died, leaving "all my close (Clothes) and residue of estate after debts are paid to sons Samuel & David. Then 10 shillings each to sons Thomas, John, Wm., & dtr. Betsy, and 100 pounds to be divided to brother Argil's children.

(I can find no records of any of Elijah's children, and have no idea what became of them - possibly the above John may have gone with Nancy to Ky, and be the John that Abraham did something with in Sanders "Life of Lincoln, only he was grandson, not son of Wm.)

Jas. Lyne, who married my aunt Fanny Bullock, dtr Len Henry Bullock was executor of Elijah's will.

Argil Hanks, second son of Wm. Sr., in 1777 bought 125 acres a few miles north of his father - ##### "land he now lives on" -- as he sold this in 1782, I did not try to locate this. In June 20 1783 Argil Hanks married Frances Hargrove, dtr of John Hargrove. The Hargrove in those days and today have been a rich, proud aristocratic family - the last male of that name died a few weeks ago, a rich old fellow, single, so no more Hargroves. Nov. 2, 1784, Argil bought 122 acres, the Va. line the northern line, thence to a poplar near meeting house, which today is Tabernacle Methodist Church, thence to Persimmon tree near Thos Hargrove still, then up to Va. line.

The old log house than Nancy lived in here is still in use, only many years ago several rooms were added and all weatherboarded. There are two very large fine oaks on north side, under which I have no doubt Nancy played dolls!

1794, John Hargrove died, leaving to Fanny 317 acres, so above 122 acres was sold 1796, they moving to the new place. This is today called "Hanks Place", all old houses are gone, and a Negro Ed Hanks lives there, probably a slave descendant - place owned by Hargroves today.

In 1797, Argil Hanks died, no will is recorded, but an inventory signed by Phanny Hanks is filed 317 acres, 6 Negroes, long list of cattle, furniture &c.

Book 5 page 1 is division of property - to Francis Hanks (Widow) & Nancy Hanks (oldest dtr.) Negro woman Kate 80L, Jacob 10L, Red Heifer & calf 4L, Bull cow 4L, 11 head of hogs 3L 12S, Young bay horse 12L, 1 bed & furniture 7L 10S, walnut table 2s 6d, 1 pewter bason # 6s -- all 122L 0s 6 pence. Then a Negro and other items to pairs of Wm & Milly, Polly & Sally, Argil & John D., Green & Willis.

Which shows that Argil & Francis had 9 children from 1783 to 1797. In 1804 is account sales of Argil's estate, which it looks like the court ordered filed.

The item just before this on will book Feb. 1804 is "Account sales of estate of Nancy Hanks deceased", filed by Doke Pruette, who in 1799 married Milly Hanks (if this Milly was sister of Nancy, she was 14 when married). This sells all Nancy's half interest in items above to mother Fanny, sister Polly, the 11 hogs to Doke Pruett.

There are many later deeds of the children of Argil.

6- Frances died 1929, leaving 3 Negroes to son Green S., all rest of estate to sons Argil H., & John D. Hanks.

John D. died 1864 leaving all to brother Argile, then to go to Hargroves.

The only Hanks marriages on record are-

1773 1771 Wm. Hanks & Millicent Hargrove
1783 Argil Hanks & Frances Hargrove.
1794 Susannah Hanks & Thos H. Phillips
1799 Milly Hanks & Doke Prewette or Privette
1803 Sarah Hanks & Jas Monroe
1816 Mary Hanks & Benj Heflin.

1772

From what I have written it looks like Nancy died and that was # all of it.

But for many years I have heard story that when Nancy was a girl she was seduced by Chief Justice Leonard Henderson after whom our city is named.

The story varies as different ones tell it.

My mother is now 83, her mother died when she was 7, so she was raised in Williamsboro by her grandmother and gr father, he was born in 1799 10 miles ##### northwest of Wmsboro, moving there 1828, and had a large store, so I get some of this story from that source. And I have lots of kin out in this section, who tell the same story.

The claim is that Henderson, who had to marry a cousin in 1795, both going to school at his grand mothers, Mrs John Williams, he studying law, *she going to school to Judge John Williams* (Judge John Williams was Vice Pres., Judge Richard Henderson father of Leonard H. was Pres. while their kinsman Len Henly Bullock my ancestor was General mgr. of the Transylvania Land Co. which in 1775 bought what is now Ky. & Tenn from Indians)

Leonard Henderson got a man from Salisbury to take Nancy to his home there, giving him a horse and buggy and money. The mans wife objected so much to Nacys being brought there, that as soon as she could she moved away to Ky.

Now as to whether there was any child born at Salisbury, or what happened no one seems to know. And there is no proof I know of of anything, except that this tradition has been known around here many years but no one has ever taken trouble to look it up. If Argil & Frances was married June 1783, Nancy was born 1784, that I understand agrees with your statement.

And if Nancy was a Hargrove I can well see that when she was disowned by the family, she would have been too proud to ever tell of them. And instead of being poor humble family, the Hanks were as well off and genteel as their neighbors, and the Hargrove strain gave him that unknown ancestry he spoke of to his partner Herndon.

The sale of 1804 was probably to clear title to property, say Hon. A.A. Nichol of Albemarle, who is writing a history of "Old Granville Co."

Guess you are tired, I am, Please write me any other claim you # know of on this, and who you think were Nancys parents.

Very truly,

John B. Watkins Jr.

In Sanders book is list of children of Joseph Hanks, oldest is Wm. Possibly he is my Wm. that moved here from Dinwiddie Co Va. which would make my Nancy a second cousin of the Nancy dtr of Lucy. and possibly my Nancy went out to Ky to her cousins there.

Williamsboro was center of much business & gaiety 1760 to 1860 - Possibly Nancy was down at Aunt Sallys visiting her cousins when they say Leonard H. seduced her.

I have written a story on "The Mothers of Abraham Lincoln, in which I list the 5 claims, but saying nothing about the men, writing in such a way that a Northern paper would print it.

I compare A.L. with the five Dionnes, only reversed in being 5 mothers to one son. Using a sentence like this "as every story claims ~~#####~~ theirs is the only true correct story, it looks like Lincoln was so great that it took 5 mothers to produce him.

My Newspaper man here wants me to send it to a news syndicate, but I am going to await your reply before doing so, as that will doubtless cause me to make some changes.

So please ~~#~~treat this as confidential at present.

Another point - Nancys first child Sarah - notice our Nancy had a sister Sarah, and an aunt Sally (Sarah). Being 9 in Nancys family, she may have lived or spent some time with Aunt Sarah, which caused the name to her child. Also it may have been here that she was with Henderson. - Henderson (my 7th cousin) was living at this time at Hillsboro, then capital of N.C. as clerk Superior Court, but often visited at his grand mothers, Mrs John ^{Williams} Henderson (where he is buried), and at the old Henderson place.

My Mother says she has always been ashamed that her Father married second time a grand daughter of this Henderson.

● Is it a positive record that Nancy + Thos L, were married 1906 in Ky by Rev. Jesse Head - If so that kills the western N.C. + S.C. story - + I hear you state the W.Va. story of mother - of Nancy being Lucy is wrong - so it looks like it narrows down to someone in Va. + my Nancy -

W. S. R. Co. 1864

Tabernacle
ck

Store
Argie Hanks 1796-1798
Still

Bullock n.c.
where John Bull
was raised

Henderson
church

Recent Hargrove Home
built before
1815

Hanks
Place
1796-1864

Transylvania
n.c.

John Cannon
sign of Jno

Small
n.c.

Jas Mitchell 1760
first wife
to Ky?

Rockwell
n.c.

to
off

Big Walnut Creek

Henderson
Farm - 1754

San Henry
Bullock
LI

Judge Richard
Henderson
buried here

Judge J. Williams
LI

Flat Creek

Wm Hanks 1768

Crooked Creek

W. S. Route 1 today

Henderson
n.c.

July 15, 1936

Mr. John B. Watkins, Jr.
Henderson, North Carolina

My dear Mr. Watkins:

Thank you for your very interesting letter relating to the Hanks family in old Granville County.

We are quite familiar with this family as several years ago we had considerable work done in the court house at Oxford by Jeanette E. Biggs, who, I think, is a genealogist of some note, and I observe as I go through our records that she has given us abstracts from many of the notes from your compilation.

We were unable at that time to make the desired connection between the Hankses who came to Kentucky which were associates with the Lincolns but filed our information in what we call our associate family.

I have had some photostat copies made of the bulletin which we published several years ago giving the tradition relating to Nancy Hanks' birth as well as a citation of the sources where this information may be found. This, I am sure, will be quite helpful to you.

I do not think any one has today positive information as to the birth place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and while tradition rather firmly supports the contention that Nancy was the daughter of a certain James Hanks and Lucy Shipley Hanks, yet this cannot be positively proven.

I do think we have enough information, however, to destroy the West Virginia theory that Nancy Hanks was born in Mineral County.

Of course, any information you may dig up about the Hankses would be of interest.

Mr. John B. Watkins, Jr.

-2-

July 15, 1936

Trusting the enclosures may help you, I am

Very truly yours

LAW:LM

Director

OFFICE
OF

HARVEY W. HARMER
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

HARMER - LYNCH BLOCK, OPPOSITE COURT HOUSE.

Clarksburg, W. Va.

June 6, 1938

Dr. Louis A. Warren.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Doctor:

Confirming our conversation of yesterday about the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother, I refer you to "West Virginia Legislative Handbook and Manual 1929" better known as the Blue Book for the year 1929. Chapters six, seven and eight refer to the birthplace. You will find that Mr. Price here undertakes to prove that Nancy Hanks was a child on her mother's lap probably a year old on the day that Washington passed by the Hanks' home.

4
You will find these three chapters I think exceedingly interesting whether they prove anything to you or not. You can probably get this book by writing to the Secretary of State, Honorable W. S. O'Brien, at Charleston, West Virginia. He is a good Methodist.

If he is not able to furnish you with the book I will be very glad to lend you my copy, for I am anxious to have you read these three chapters.

Very truly yours,

Harvey W. Harmer

HWH;MER

June 9, 1938

Mr. Harvey W. Harmer
Harmer-Lynch Block
Clarksburg, West Virginia

My dear Mr. Harmer:

Thank you very much for remembering to send me the name of the West Virginia Handbook which you referred to in our conversation last Sunday and we will acquire it, I am sure, with much interest, and will be pleased indeed to learn of the final conclusions drawn by Mr. Price.

I will write immediately to Honorable W. S. O'Brien, suggesting that you have called my attention to the book, and I think it is quite likely I will be favored with a copy.

I have spoken in Charleston, West Virginia a great many times for both Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, and have a great many friends in Charleston.

Enclosed you will please find photostat copy of the newspaper article prepared by Mr. Price in which he quite definitely places the responsibility of Nancy Hanks' maternity upon George Washington. You may keep the photostat, as it is a very simple process to make them here.

We publish a little bulletin here called Lincoln Lore, which we send gratis to those interested in the life of the Emancipator, and I am taking the liberty of placing your name on our mailing list to receive subsequent issues.

Yours very truly,

LAW:EB

Director

Enc. (1)

Kany Hawks Buhl

June 10, 1938

Honorable W. S. O'Brien
Secretary of State
Charleston, West Virginia

My dear Sir:

We are very much interested in acquiring the
"West Virginia Legislative Handbook and Manual for 1939."
Could you please advise us how we may secure the volume
and if there is a remittance we will be very glad to forward it.

Mr. Harvey W. Hammer at Clarksburg, has suggested
that I write you with reference to securing one of these
books.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director



EDITOR AND COMPILER
CHARLES LIVELY
CLERK OF THE SENATE

West Virginia Blue Book **Charleston**

June 18, 1938

Mr. Lewis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mr. Warren:

Referring to your letter of June tenth, addressed to the Secretary of State, I regret exceedingly that the entire surplus supply of the West Virginia Blue Book for the year 1929 has been exhausted for several years.

Regretting my inability to be of service to you in this instance, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Charles Lively

CL: S

*Contains story by Marion Bruce on
Billings of Mary Hanks*

Lincoln HERALD



SUMMER 1998

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THE BIRTH-
PLACE OF NANCY
HANKS: JOSEPH DOLL,
Owner of the Farm in Mineral County, W. Va., Where the Mother of President Lincoln Was
Born. Pointing the Spot Where the House Stood, Which Is to Be Included in a Proposed
State Park.
(Coyd Yost.)

A COMING LINCOLN REPORT

It will be recalled that Dr. William E. Barton announced some time ago his discovery of the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, near Keyser, West Virginia. Last spring the legislature of the state asked the governor to name a commission which should undertake an official investigation to determine the question of the accuracy of the Barton announcement. The commission was duly appointed and it now has made its investigation. Interest in its forthcoming report is running high. The governor has invited the governors of Maryland and Virginia to be present with himself when the report shall be presented at a date now not far ahead.

The contents of the report in its essential findings at least have been supplied to local newspapers of the state by some members of the commission and from these publications a fairly accurate notion of what may be expected may be gleaned. Dr. Barton's findings were that in 1782 the grandfather of Nancy Hanks, named Joseph Hanks, removed from Richmond County, Virginia, where, neighboring the Lees, the family home had been for a century, and established a new home in "the West" on Mike's Run of Patterson's Creek, in what now is Mineral County. The family consisted of Joseph and Ann Hanks, with their five sons and four daughters, and they appear as a family of eleven in the 1782 enumeration of the first United States census. The birth of Nancy, the mother of the President, occurred between the coming of the family to this new home in 1782 and their departure therefrom in 1784. Many of these details are to be found in the comprehensive work on the lineage of Lincoln, published with that title within a year by Dr. Barton.

The members of the commission who have gone on record in type confirm these findings by the indefatigable Lincoln investigator. He found exact identification of the location of the Hanks farm difficult, on account of a confusion in county lines which produced the recording of some important documents in the wrong county. This trouble the commission is understood to have overcome and the members are reported to have a clear abstract of title with boundaries precisely delimited. The farm is said to have been in a beautiful valley which is also of special geological interest. Nothing about Lincoln fails to obtain wide public attention these days. When before has so much labor and scholarly research been expended upon the life and ancestry, and all collateral matters having to do with a great man, than have been devoted the last quarter-century to Abraham Lincoln?

Lincoln's Mother Was Born In W.Va., Research Reveals

Indiana has its shrine to Nancy Hanks, and Kentucky and Illinois have state parks dedicated to her illustrious son. A Parkersburg resident, a member of the Centennial Chapter, Daughters of American Pioneers, poses the question, "Why has West Virginia done so little to recognize the birthplace of the mother of Lincoln?"

Mrs. H. J. Maire of 954 Lakeview Dr., has been interested in the subject of Lincoln ever since she accidentally heard a short wave broadcast between the mayors of Hingham, Mass., and Hingham, England, at the time of World War II. During the broadcast, the mayor of the American city introduced a Lincoln who lives there, and the English mayor told of the Lincoln church located in his city.

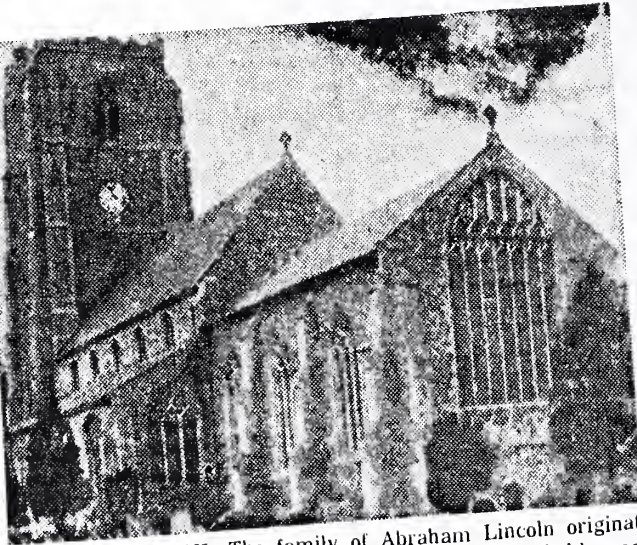
Like most Americans, Mrs. Maire had heard that Lincoln, a man poor in this world's wealth, had come from a poverty-ridden background. She was surprised to learn during the broadcast that the Lincoln family was descended from leaders related to the signing of the Magna Carta, namely John Fitz - Geoffrey and Isabel Bigot. *b*

Broadcast Provided Incentive

The broadcast provided the incentive, and Mrs. Maire has spent the years since in an exhaustive study of Lincoln materials and in correspondence with persons related to the famous president.

Among facts revealed by her study is that Nancy Hanks was born in West Virginia, even though some scholars continue to deny it. The state has erected a marker at the site, and a sign on U. S. 50 in Hampshire county points to "The Saddle," beyond which the site is located.

For many years it was believed that Nancy was born in Virginia, but William E. Barton began an exhaustive investigation in 1921 which concluded with the discovery of the remains of the Hanks



LINCOLN CHURCH—The family of Abraham Lincoln originated at Hingham, England, and the church there was attended by many generations of the family. Within its walls is a memorial to the famous American president.

he was able to take workmen to the particular spot and to tell them to dig. The result was the discovery of the remains of the cabin.

Additional facts showed that Nancy did not come from the "dirt - poor" background with which she has been credited. The Hanks had originally settled near Plymouth, Mass., in the late 1600's, and Nancy's immediate ancestor moved to Virginia in the early 1700's. It was thought for a time that Nancy was born in Amelia county. At her grandmother's death, an extensive estate was divided between the children.

Hanks Family Moves

It was, at that time that Joseph Hanks, father of Nancy, moved with his family to Hampshire county, where the daughter who would become Abe Lincoln's mother, was born. He took his share of the estate and invested it in land.

On the Lincoln side of the fam-



7 Ball

(incomplete)

It becomes necessary to add another chapter to the history of the Hanks family to include the important branch bearing that name which settled in Greenbrier and Monroe counties which played such an important part in the history of those counties, especially Monroe.

If these articles on the distasteful side of Abraham Lincoln ever get bound up together in a book the proper title should be "A Tangled Skein." Nancy Hanks, the revered mother of Lincoln did not know that she was destined to be one of the famous women of all places and times. Like Homer, seven cities warred for her place to lay his head.

The seven States that war for Nancy Hanks are Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. The evidence is satisfactory that Nancy Hanks was born in Dolfs Gap in Mineral County, and the tradition that she was from Greenbrier County in no way conflicts with that conclusion. I meant at the time I was writing that the Greenbrier County records indicated that she was born in Mineral County and that she went to Kentucky by the way of Greenbrier County.

It will be noted that the family in Greenbrier and Monroe dropped the end of the name and were known as Hanks. This in itself detracts from the value of the evidence for an odd s at the end of the name is not regarded as a material inference in the way names get twisted. Besides the s may be regarded as silent like the r in James. Another thing, Dr. Lewis A. Warren so loquently explains for me that I write for the purpose of filling an aching void in the family past must not be regarded as the kind of the commission of life who are appointed by the Governor under the Legislative Resolution Number to pass upon the history of Mrs. Mary H. Lincoln. That is very true. In speaking that he does make a parable. But if I have read a spirit of West Virginia right in its matter, it is that it makes no inference in what State the immortal Nancy was born just so she was in West Virginia.

I have been introduced to history rather late in life. I had said in haste that I knew about history had even met historians, but I did not even know the meaning of the word. I have come to the conclusion that the true historian is a man of a martyr with his shirt on who is harder to convince than a Sadducee and the Pharisees are not willing to accept as the most authentic circumstance unless some feeble mind in the past has made a record of it and uttered a document. Intuitive knowledge is defined as absolute certainty but no historian worthy of the name would accept it unless it was rebuffed by some dead hand.

My experience in Greenbrier, my recent research there has led me that history as well as tradition in fact tradition is contradicted by the Bible as the proper way to keep historical facts alive. In twenty-odd years ago, Mrs. Hancock, a wealthy woman, and a fortune made an exhaustive search regard to Nancy Hanks and published a well known volume at great expense. It is whispered that she has spent over twenty thousand dollars in traveling abroad. She is to Lewisburg and obtained a deed copy of a deed that showed that in 1780 that William Hanks had given a deed for 267 acres on Turkey Creek. I saw this copy the other day. It was yellow with age. It is all in the handwriting of the clerk of the county court of Greenbrier County. When I first heard of it the deed seemed to be a little y for Greenbrier county deeds, there it was, as authentic a document as I ever saw. Later I found it was wrong.

In September, when I went down Monroe to assist in the unveiling of the monument of Goddrell Lively, soldier of the Revolution, I stayed all night with the Dicksons at Old Creek, one of the fine Virginia homes of the two states. The day, Hon. Clarence Dickson came to go on with me clear to the end of the county where our way crossed just two days before a big river let go on an adjacent farm. We traveled to the place we came to Union, and the centurions

required us to detour by the way of Willow Bend. As we passed an impressive looking mansion by the side of the road called detour, Mr. Dickson remarked, "There is the old Hanks place." I was working on the history of another Revolutionary character that day and it did not greatly impress me any further than to wonder what relation it had to my own paternal great-grandfather.

A short time after that I was struggling to answer some of the letters that have piled up on me about this subject and another thing that occurred this year. I wrote to Dr. Louis A. Warren, head of the Lincoln Historical Foundation, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, that I had seen the Hanks mansion in Monroe County. I then got a telegram to meet him at Lewisburg on Armistice Day at nine o'clock and he drove into Lewisburg on the minute.

If Dr. Warren thought to open the subject of Nancy Hanks' birthplace by investigating the history of the family in Greenbrier and Monroe, and to gently move her out of our horizon, he has not succeeded. On the other hand a study of the evidence convinces me that the migration from Hampshire (Mineral) came through Greenbrier (Monroe) on their way to Kentucky and that the infant Nancy lived both in Mineral and in Monroe. We even found where the friend of the family, the ubiquitous hunter, Charles Friend, had sworn in as a constable in Monroe, in 1804.

This would have probably been discovered sooner if it had not been for the document that showed that William Hanks was a landowner in Greenbrier county in 1790 a date too early for the William Hanks who was the uncle of Nancy.

Armistice Day found the court house at Lewisburg closed. Dr. Warren drove up in one of these modern cars that makes a king's carriage of a generation ago look like a wheelbarrow. Thinks I, the uncertain science history, old boy, has left you well found in the way of equipment. So we got into his car and went to Monroe to the courthouse of that county, twenty-two miles farther south on the Seneca Trail. Arrived at Union, we found everything wide open there with the nervous expectancy of the superior court opening the next day. There we found plenty of documentary evidence, a mass of great deal of the evidence that walks, talks, and breathes and lives. In Monroe it is considered an honor to be connected with the Hanks family.

My particular interest was in William Hanks the pioneer. It soon developed that he had not only raised a family of children but that they were of unusual merit and ability. It was one of those earthly unions that seem to be blessed with splendid children.

In a crowded hour in the clerk's office, it was apparent that William Hanks had spent the best years of his life on the divide between the waters of Turkey Creek and Dropping Lick Creek, at the foot of Little Mountain. That he had cleared and farmed a rich patch in the center of his holdings which had finally been enclosed by a boundary of fifty-three acres. That he had departed this life some time prior to 1835, and that he had died of all his holdings except the homestead of fifty-three acres, which was conveyed to his son Jehu by the rest of the heirs. That his children were six: David, Elizabeth, Caleb, Mary, John, and Jehu. That these children had scattered to distant counties with the exception of Jehu. That Rev. Mr. Hanks, of Hinton, a Baptist minister, is the only one of the third generation from William Hanks who is generally known in Monroe. He is a son of Jehu. That some of the children of William moved to Anne Arundel County, Maryland. That is the County of Annapolis. That the Anne Arundel branch were a stylish, aristocratic set who dressed exquisitely and had fine faces and a cultivated air. Rev. Wilbur Hanks, referred to above, lives at Belle Point, near Hinton. The Hanks land is still in the family and a direct descendant of William Hanks was husking corn on the same land last week. All the counties in the Greenbrier Valley are lands of steady habits.

Leaving the court-house at Union we took the detour. Union is one of the important towns of West Virginia. It has furnished to West Virginia two United States Senators and other distinguished men. It was the life long home of the late Judge A. N. Campbell, the 11th Sergeant of Bryan's Battery. It was the home of Col. Rowan, the man who carried the

message to Garcia. And many other famous men. There is a newspaper there that has been in the Johnston family for fifty years. The Monroe Watchman is a habit with the people of Monroe and a good habit, too.

The Seneca Trail is closed more or less south of Union and the traveler's soul is vexed by the melancholy word detour. But the time is fast drawing on when the highway will be open for the full 198 miles north and south across West Virginia. Just now Union, the county seat, is located on as pretty a syncline as one would wish to see with a hopeful anticline to the east and another to the west, waiting only for some Moses to come and strike the rock so the Nile can gush forth. To the east marked by the Gap Mountain is the place where the earth slipped causing an upthrow, called Saint Clair's Fault, which was supposed to be a leak but which now seems to be a hermetic seal or fusion patching a fracture. Are we down east? No. Up east and never spilled a drop.

We found Turkey Creek, a bold stream that turns a big grain mill, just as William Hanks found it, without a bridge. We dashed in, drowned the engine, waited for it to dry and pulled out on our own power. Same experience coming back.

We found Little Mountain in place a sort of foot-hill to Gap Mountain which occupies a similar place to Peters Mountain, a continuation of the Allegheny.

And so we came to the divide between the waters of Turkey Creek and Dropping Lick Creek. We heard some word of the son Caleb. He was a noted rifle shot. It is remembered that he would have the young men drill down a hill a specially prepared barrel-head and Caleb would shoot at it as it rolled, to practice shooting a running deer.

The pioneer William chose good land and good hunting. It is the same neighborhood that John Lybrook killed a panther fourteen feet long, of which we have documentary evidence. It must have been the same panther that ate up John Draper's horse at one meal, and which caused Thomas Jefferson who found his bones in Organ Cave to call

it the megalonyx, or the big claw. That fourteen feet must stand for a record was made in the memory of living men. We do not propose to abate an inch. Inquiries about the panther locally were without effect, we had to rely on the document.

By far the most famous member of the family was the Rev. Jehu Hanks, the leading citizen of Turkey Creek, a lay preacher, rich man, and noted singer. He was a man well over six feet tall, with a long beard down on his bosom, with a shaven upper lip, a great horseman, and a thinker and a counsellor among his people. He built the great house that still stands in perfect repair. It dates from 1846. It has three chimneys each one of which would cost as much as a modern cottage. The ceilings are twelve feet high. I did not measure them but I heard it said and they looked it. The doors are extra width. It is the home of Jesse L. Hines a member of an ancient family of Monroe. Mr. Hines is the brother to the able lawyers of Brazer County. Mrs. Hines is the daughter of the manor. Jehu had a melodious bass voice. Once riding along a road by a church where service was being held he heard the congregation start a hymn, and not having gotten off on the right foot, it failed to gain momentum, and then silence. Then through the open window boomed the voice of the magnificent Jehu, and he sat on his horse and sang with the congregation.

Porter Boyd remembers him well. Porter Boyd is seventy-five years old and comes in the class with Judge Lively as being a living grandson of a Revolutionary soldier. Son of Patrick Porterfield Boyd, who was a son of the Patrick Boyd, of the Continental line, who wintered at Valley Forge. Patrick Boyd married Ann McElwain in the Lewisburg fort, in the year 1777.

Jehu Hanks was born on Turkey Creek in 1801 and died there in 1882, aged 81 years. He was a money maker. Gradually acquired all of the Hanks land and a great deal more. He was the owner of a number of slaves Taught singing school. Lined them up and started the place with a tanning fork and made them beat time.

An old lady told me that when she saw the Jehu Hanks travelling along the road in their line carriage with line horses driven by a colored man that she thought they must be the finest people in the world. That she and the other girls and boys thought that a visit to the manor house a great event. I said: "How did he make all his money?" "Oh, raised niggers and sold them, I reckon." Which was a tolerable rude way to refer to the institution.

Mrs. Hines, a tall aristocratic looking woman, was the daughter of John Morgan and Susan Anne Hanks. Her father was a Confederate soldier a member of Bryan's Battery perhaps. This was the battery in which Prof. Humphreys served as a gunner, and which first made scientific application of indirect fire from cannon. John Morgan was killed at one of the battles at Fayetteville and on the same day a man by the name of John Morgan was killed on the Federal side. His young widow died soon after leaving her daughter, a little girl, five years old. She was raised by her grandfather Rev. Jehu Hines, and has lived in the Hanks house all her life. Six generations of her lived on that farm land.

I did not find the will of William Hanks. In the deed of 1835 in conveying the homestead the heirs say that they do in accord with their father's will. Probably they mean in accordance with their father's wish. Such is the vagary of the English language and documentary evidence. Or it may be that William Hanks had gone to Kentucky, to Virginia, or to Maryland to wind up his life with some one of his loving children.

It was gradually being impressed

upon me that Dr. Warren's theory was quite reconcilable with the legend of Dolfs Gap and I reasoned it out this way: Joseph Hanks lived in Hampshire in the seventeen-eighties. He had a wife and nine children and a granddaughter. They lived in Dolfs Gap in a part of the country that had no courts to punish crime because it was uncertain whether it was in Pennsylvania or Virginia. Over a period of more than thirty years social life was regulated by public sentiment with an occasional recourse

and if they did not go quickly of their own accord they were given broad hints or frozen out. They coined an expression there that may be unique to frontiers. They "hated him out." To a sensitive nature a misfortune would cause such a migration.

Thomas Hanks the oldest son enlisted as a Revolutionary soldier from Hampshire. Afterwards he married there and went west later in life.

William Hanks or Hank went first to Rockingham County while at that time included most of Pendleton and which now is about twenty miles from Dolfs Gap. That is considered the richest county in the United States in farm land and in that day and time farm land was what counted most. Here William acquired some money probably from labor for the rich Pennsylvania-Dutch wheat raisers of the valley, and sometime in the seventeen-eighties he found the rich lands of the Greenbrier Valley and William Cooper sold him 267 acres, a part of a patent of 380 acres, and deeded it to him as William Hanks of Rockingham County.

Later on circumstances caused Joseph Hanks, his father, to leave for Kentucky. For obvious reasons when anyone went from the Pennsylvania settlements that lay west of the mountains, one would naturally suppose that they would go by water down the Monongahela or the Yohogony rivers and by boats down the Ohio.

But when you come to think about it, Dolfs Gap is on the trail and the cause of the trail that led to McCullough's Path, which is the road we now call Seneca Trail. This trail was the neutral warrior's road north and south and a well travelled trail led from Dolfs Gap to Turkey Creek, and if William lived on that route it is natural to suppose that the Hanks family when they hit the road with hunters Charles Friend and Joe Logston that they would come by William's home. It is very possible that little Nancy played around the cabin on Turkey Creek. And that the tradition is right that causes the Hanks family to appear in Kentucky from Greenbrier County. Bear in mind Monroe was formed entirely from Greenbrier in 1790.

And what is more significant is that Anne, having married her husband Joseph, in 1793, in the savage land on Rough River, should return to spend the rest of her life on Turkey Creek, in Virginia. There is no evidence that she could or would have come back to Hampshire, but there is every reason to believe that she did come back to Greenbrier.

And that is the belief that grew up in me as I pondered on the story as it unfolded itself in the hazy research of Armistice Day.

The fly in the ointment, the weak point in the argument, was caused by documentary evidence. In Dr. Warren's brief case was the yellow certified deed in the hand writing of C. B. Boster, clerk of the county clerk of Greenbrier County, that William Hanks got a deed of land in 1780, and if that was true then he could not have been William of Dolfs Gap.

But the next day it was all explained. Deed Book I page 55, in Greenbrier County, has the deed and it is as certain a date. It reads this manly day of blank seventeen hundred and eighty blank. It was admitted

to record and proved in 1789, and was for a part of a tract of land of 380 acres patented to William Cooper. A glance at the index showed the patent to have been issued in 1787. And that corresponds well enough to the exodus from Dolfs Gap.

To make the point clearer about the value of documentary evidence in history the incident in George Washington's life may be cited. A great many historians refuse to believe that George Washington cut down a cherry tree with his hatchet because no indelible can be found covering the act. But I prefer to follow the interpretation of the Hon. Bill Bryne who says that he cut the tree for a fishing pole.

Patterson Creek, West Virginia

Whatever uncertainty exists as to the place of Lucy's betrayal, her baby was born on Mike's Run of Patterson's Creek, probably late in 1783. In March, 1784, Joseph Hanks and his family mortgaged their farm for a sum pathetic in its meagerness and went to Kentucky.

Barton: The Lineage of Lincoln; p.230

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NANCY HANKS BIRTHPLACE

MIKES RUN, MINERAL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Barger:

Mineral Daily News

Keyser, W. Va.

Monday, Sept. 23, 1929.

Report of

The Nancy Hanks
Commission

To His Excellency

Hon. Wm. G. Conley,
Governor of West
Virginia

Original Grant

Made by Lord Fairfax, to

Peter Hartman

Land Grant Book

No. 6, page 104, in

office of auditor of
West Virginia

United States

Census Report 1790

Joseph Hanks, citizen
and taxpayer, Hampshire
County, Virginia, (now
West Virginia)

Deed Book No. 1,
Page 127

In the Court House in
Romney, West Virginia,
deed from Lord Fairfax
to Peter Hartman, for
216 acres.

Deed Book No. 6,
Pages 168-69

In the Court House in
Romney, recording the
deed given Joseph Hanks
the possession of the
Northern Neck of 216
acres deeded to Peter
Hartman by Fairfax--
Also mortgage given to
Peter Putman by Joseph
Hanks.

Andrew Price
Traced land to location,
Doll's Gap, Mikes Run,
Mineral County, W. Va.

1929, West Virginia
Legislative Hand Book
and Manual, Pages 793,
810.

Picture
Of Marker (cut)

1934, West Virginia
Hand Book and Manual
Page 482

Deeds to
Doll Family tracing
Birthplace to present
owners.

Land Book No. 1, Court
House, Moorefield, Hardy
County, West Virginia

